

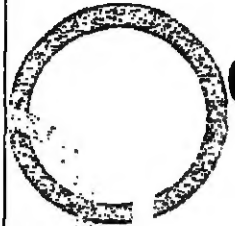
THE TIMES

10p ON MONDAYS

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Looking for peace: Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, settles her glasses as she announces that Sinn Féin is to be admitted to multi-party talks despite fears over Unionist anger. A momentous step, Page 1

Dobson tells NHS to avoid winter crisis

Trusts fear that they do not have the funds to meet the Health Secretary's demands, reports Nigel Hawkes

FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, yesterday ordered the National Health Service to start planning now to avoid a crisis this winter.

Mr Dobson instructed hospitals, health authorities, and local authorities to work together to ensure that services can cope with the big increase in patients that the NHS has to cope with every winter. The NHS must learn the lessons of past failures, he said, admitting that the quality of planning and preparation had in the past been variable. "In some places it is excellent and in others, not so good," Mr Dobson said. "We must ensure that best practice becomes normal practice."

In a letter to all health authority and hospital trust chairmen, and to leaders of councils and chairs of social services and housing committees, Mr Dobson called for

increased co-operation to avoid problems. He declared that adequate provision must be made for emergency care; that there must be no unilateral closures of accident and emergency departments; and that the NHS must work with social services to ensure unbroken provision of care.

The NHS Confederation welcomed the moves, and said that health authorities and trusts were already drawing up "battle plans" to tackle the expected increase in hospital admissions. But it gave warning that taking on extra staff and opening extra facilities could cost larger trusts hundreds of thousands of pounds which they do not have.

"Trusts and health authorities are already gearing up ahead of the Secretary of State's request," said Jean Trainor, acting chief executive of the confederation. "How-



Dobson said that lessons must be learnt

ever, there are implications for funding. During the summer months some trusts have been operating at winter levels and without extra funding they expect to take a further hammering this winter."

Every winter, hospital admissions increase sharply. The problem is exacerbated if

patients cannot be discharged in good time, for lack of support in the community. That is why Mr Dobson is also involving social service and housing departments. His letter is based on the results of a tour made by the NHS Chief Executive, Alan Langlands, and the Chief Social Services Inspector, Sir Herbert Laming, to the eight NHS regions.

Their report shows that emergency admissions were 6.4 per cent higher in the final quarter of 1996 than they had been a year earlier. Combined with a moderate flu outbreak, a short spell of icy weather, delayed discharges, staff shortages, and a reluctance by trusts to spend money, this led to peaks of demand during which patients could not always be found beds.

Pressures were severe between mid-December and the end of February, with the peak coming between December 30 and January 20. The report says that the NHS came under "very severe strain", with serious disruption to normal delivery of care, and that it was not always able to do more than "scrape by".

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC tries to block Teletubbies single

THE BBC is to seek an injunction against three disc jockeys planning to release a charity fund-raising Teletubbies pop single. Vincent Brown, 29, from Whitby, North Yorkshire, has recorded the Teletubbies song and sent demo tapes to dozens of radio stations. It features the soundtrack of the voices of Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa and Po against a fast disco rhythm similar to the hit song Cotton Eye Joe, by Rednex. Mr Brown and his colleagues, Anthony Jones and Andy Brennan, were planning a Christmas release.

The BBC2 programme has a strong following among students as well as the pre-school audience it is aimed at. But the planned pop single has fallen foul of the BBC's copyright lawyers. John Willan, director of BBC Worldwide Music, said yesterday: "It is a clear infringement of our BBC copyright and we will be seeking an injunction on Monday."

No show at Christmas

An American cinema chain denied reports that it planned to open its British theatres on Christmas Day. Showcase, which runs 15 multi-screen sites, has applied to eight local authorities to have restrictions on Christmas Day opening rescinded. Its other seven cinemas already have licences to operate on Christmas Day. A spokeswoman said: "We are simply looking ahead should the market arise."

Father missing at sea

Coastguards called off an air and sea search for a 25-year-old father of three who disappeared after drifting out to sea on an inflatable dinghy at Chapel St Leonards on the Lincolnshire coast. The dinghy was discovered empty. Police towed the beaches appealing for information about any missing persons were approached by an eight-year-old girl saying she had lost her father.

Kitten case quashed

A man jailed for six months for cooking a live kitten in a microwave oven at a party has been freed by an appeal court. Brendan Blennerhassett, 24, of Luton, had been convicted by magistrates in Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, of causing cruelty to an animal. He maintained his innocence and a recorder sitting with two magistrates at Newcastle Crown Court quashed the sentence.

Two jailed for crash lie

Two men were jailed for three months after crashing a company car and claiming it had been stolen. Jonathan Kirby, 28, employed by a finance company, allowed his friend, Benjamin Morley, 23, to drive the car after they had been drinking heavily, the Old Bailey was told. Kirby, of Maida Vale, west London, and Morley, of Galsford, admitted acts intended to pervert the course of justice.

Inquest on former MP

Ted Leadbitter, the former Labour MP for Hartlepool, may have been suffering from dementia when he drove into a stationary road maintenance lorry in November, his GP told a Middlesbrough inquest. He suffered a broken back and died a month later. Mr Leadbitter, 77, whose wife had died a month earlier, was succeeded in the seat in 1992 by Peter Mandelson. Verdict: accidental death.

Police head for Amazon



Three Metropolitan Police officers, from left, Bryan Fewkes, 37, John Anthony, 33, the leader, and Ray Hall, 41, are to travel by powered canoe 4,500 miles up the Amazon from its mouth to the Andes. The journey, organised by the Police Expeditions Club, is aimed at raising up to £100,000 for the Sick Children's Trust and the medical charity Action Research. The six-week expedition will start on September 11.

Programme chief quits

John Willis, director of programmes at Channel 4, left yesterday four months after failing in his attempt to succeed Michael Grade as chief executive. Mr Willis agreed terms to release him from his contract, which carries an annual salary of £250,000. Michael Jackson, who was appointed Channel 4's chief executive in May, will now combine his role with that of director of programmes.

Briton's attacker guilty

Aundra Atkins, 18, who shot and wounded a British holidaymaker, Margaret Jagger, 39, of Bradford, was found guilty of attempted first-degree murder yesterday at Monticello, Florida. Atkins, who was 14 at the time of the bungled robbery, admitted killing Ms Jagger's companion Gary Colley. The prosecution is seeking a sentence of 40 years.

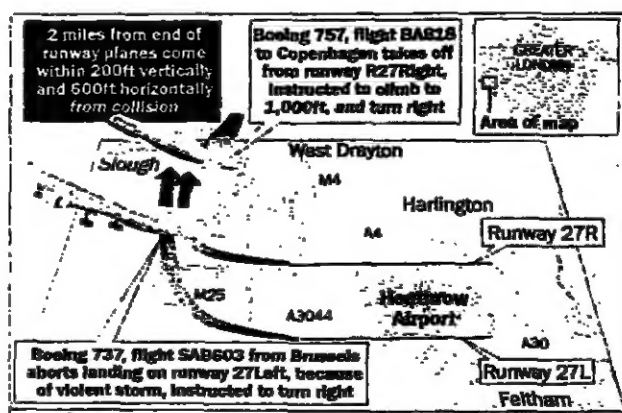
Heathrow near-miss

Continued from page 1

as the flight from Brussels. Controllers on the ground shouted in horror as they saw the two radar "blips" merge into one. It is estimated that the incident occurred at a height of 1,000 feet just two miles northwest of Heathrow and that the two planes were at most 200 feet apart vertically and 600 feet horizontally. The aircraft were flying at 190 miles an hour.

The air accident investigation branch report is not likely to be concluded for almost a year.

Earlier this week reports into less serious near misses showed that in July two Heathrow-bound jets came within 300 ft of each other over Lambourne in Essex and last November two British Air-



ways Boeing 757s almost collided as they "stacked" over Biggin Hill in Kent.

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, last night insisted that air travel is still safe.

"If you're a nervous flier, as I am, there are no signals really that are consoling, but it is still one of the safest forms of transport," she told BBC Radio 4's PM programme.

Labour MP in marriage break-up

DENNIS CANAVAN, the Labour MP for Falkirk West, confirmed yesterday that he had separated from his second wife, Bridgid.

Mr Canavan, 55, said the split had been amicable and that no one else was involved. He had been living alone since his wife moved out in March. Bridgid Gallagher was his long-term girlfriend after the end of his first marriage, from which he has two adult children.

Speaking at his cottage near Sauchieburn, Stirling, Mr Canavan said: "I can confirm Bridgid and I have been living apart since March. We are still friends and will see each other occasionally. I wish her all the best and I've just got to try to get on with my life."

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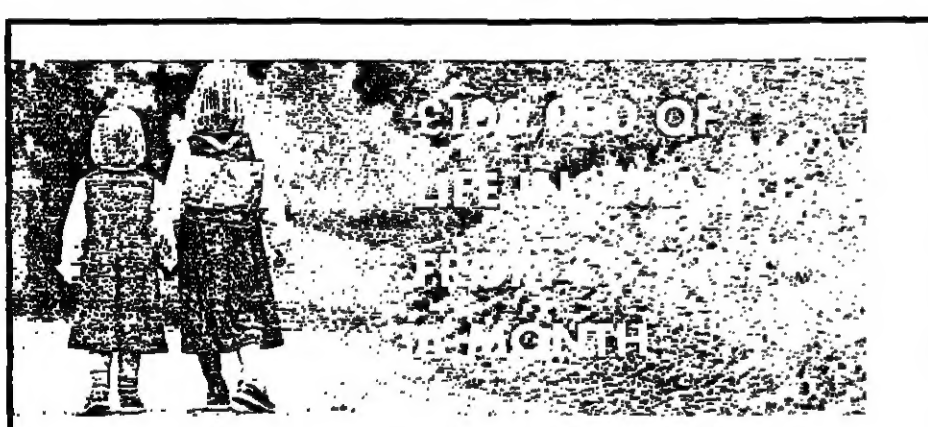
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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Me new Tarzan, and I'm no ape

It's still a jungle out there, but the he-man has turned into New Man. **Dalya Alberge** reports from the Venice Film Festival

TARZAN has become a New Man. Political correctness has caught up with his jungle paradise. He no longer kills animals and his mate, Jane, does some of the fighting, in the biggest of three films being made about the Lord of the Apes.

This is a Tarzan for the 1990s and Jane is a modern woman, said Greg Coote, president of Village Roadshow Pictures, which is leading the revival of one of the best-known legends of popular fiction. "It went away for a while, but it's back."

He believes the new popularity reflects worldwide concerns for the environment and the rainforests. In the \$25 million *Tarzan: Jungle Warrior*, the hero will not have to slay a vicious crocodile in a swamp or strangle a crazed lion. Jane will not just stand helplessly in the face of danger.

The hero will be played by Casper van Dien, whose first major role is in *The Starship Troopers*. Mr Coote said: "He's built not like Arnold Schwarzenegger, but just a fit young guy. And great looking." Jane will be played by Britain's Jane March, who appeared in *The Lower*. Seven Waddington, who starred in the BBC's *Juana* adaptation, is a villain.

The story has been adapted from *Tarzan and the Lost City of Op*, and will use more than 100 computer-generated images recreating scenes such as a swarm of bees saving Tarzan from a cobra.

There have been more than 40 Tarzan movies since Edgar



New Tarzan: van Dien "is just a fit young guy"

Rice Burroughs created his action hero in 1912, turning to writing after numerous unsuccessful jobs. He produced some 25 books about the son of an English nobleman abandoned in the jungle as a baby and brought up by the apes. The stories have been translated into more than 56 languages, and there are 21,000 pages devoted to him on the Internet.

Johnny Weissmuller, the former Olympic swimming champion who changed from his bathing costume to a loincloth for a series of films, remains one of the best-known Tarzans. The most successful recent example was Christopher Lambert in the 1984 *Greystoke*. Despite a big-screen lull since then, the

hero remains well-known. Mr Coote said that the British distributor, First Independent, conducted some Tarzan research in London: "It was incredible. They found 95 per cent awareness."

Village Roadshow Pictures, an Australian company with a base in Los Angeles, within the past two years, they have entered into partnerships with the actor Dustin Hoffman in producing films, and with Warner in co-owning British multiplexes such as the Warner West End in London. Their forthcoming films include *The Blouse Man*, starring Anna Paquin, the Oscar-winning girl from *The Piano*, which is shooting at the moment. They hope that their Tarzan film will be released in Britain in May.

"It's going to be spectacular," said Paul Davis, of Village Roadshow Pictures, a joint venture with VRP, who is attending the Venice Film Festival to handle a rather different project — the international licensing for Woody Allen's new *Deconstructing Harry*. Mr Davis added: "This is going to introduce a new generation to the character of Tarzan."

Two other forthcoming films inspired by the Tarzan stories are planned by the Walt Disney stable. The British songwriter and performer Phil Collins is composing a score for an animation feature based on the novel *Tarzan of the Apes*. It is his first full film score. Disney refused to release any details about the film, partly because of con-



The old Tarzan: Johnny Weissmuller, former Olympic swimmer, ready to swing into action with his co-stars

cern about rivals pirating their ideas. It is not scheduled for release until 1999.

The advantage of animation, said a spokeswoman, was that the actors and crew would not have to worry

about hazards such as malaria and water-snakes. Their second film is a lightweight comedy loosely inspired by Tarzan, and could represent an even newer man. It is called *George of the Jungle*.

It is hard to guess what Burroughs — who died in 1950 — might have thought of a politically correct Tarzan, although he might well have approved because of his concern for the natural world. He

once said: "I wanted my readers to realise that man alone of all the creatures that inhabit the Earth is the only creature that derives pleasure from inflicting pain on other creatures, even his own kind."

The real Monty is more than just a comic strip

In the city jungle, some modern men don't even have loincloths, writes **Peter Foster**

THE job is better paid than a milkman's, but it is less challenging than fixing air-conditioning units. Stripping can be an easy way to make a living, but only if you have the physique, the tan andchutzpah to — er — pull it off.

In the new British film comedy, *The Full Monty*, which goes on nationwide release this weekend, six unemployed Sheffield steelworkers bare their beer bellies and pigeon chests to raise a few quid and escape the daily insult of registering at the city's job club. Real-life professionals have similarly humble backgrounds, but they have to rely on more than

novelty value and the desire of women to see their menfolk make idiots of themselves.

Jonny Moon gave up work as a milkman in the Midlands to join the Dreamboy troupe more than five years ago. He remembers his audition in a now-defunct London dance club very clearly: "When I arrived, ten or 12 of the guys were rehearsing. The choreographer stopped the music, told the guys to sit down, and then turned the music back on and I had to dance. It was terrifying but I went for it, all or bust, and it worked."

Another of the Dreamboys, Richard Adams, 25, was a postman, and Alex Micallef, 22, joined



The Dreamboys include a former milkman and postman

after studying psychology and computing. He said: "I could sympathise with the characters in the film who were so nervous before going on stage. On my first performance, the boys had to

throw me out there and block the doorway so I couldn't get back. I was terrified and ending up stripping far too quickly."

Other Dreamboys have had less difficulty finding the courage.

Trevor Goldstein, a former air-conditioning technician, said: "Why should I be embarrassed? I look fantastic."

They can earn up to £20,000 a year from touring and television appearances — a relatively small sum, but the job includes a number of expenses-paid trips abroad and as many ego-massages as any 20-something male could reasonably demand.

While a Dreamboy can rely on women for adulation, he often finds men much less complimentary. In *The Full Monty*, one of the toughest steelworkers dismisses the Chippendales as "pooft", an experience with which all the Dreamboys identified when they saw the film premiere. "You wouldn't believe the jealousy," Richard Adams said. "We did a show last night in which some 60-

year-old bloke started slagging us off." But unlike the characters in *The Full Monty*, a diet of lager, cigarettes and Mars Bars is strictly forbidden to professionals.

These men exist on low-fat tuna, chicken and pasta. A few pints of lager might be allowed at the weekends if they behave themselves. Maintaining biceps, triceps and pectorals also means three or four tough sessions in the gym each week.

As for going "the full monty", the fictional lads of Sheffield have the edge on the Chippendales and the Dreamboys. The professional dancers may take off everything, including their G-strings, but there is always a strategically placed half a coconut or a policeman's hat for cover. Jonny Moon said: "We like to leave something to the imagination."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council dismisses clerk on £71,000

A town council clerk who was discovered to be earning £71,000 a year has been sacked for gross misconduct. Michael Wheaton, a former leader of Humberside County Council, was clerk of Goole council in east Yorkshire, where the recommended salary was about £23,000. He had been suspended on £36,000 for six months before his dismissal, which followed an eight-day hearing. He is expected to appeal. Earlier this year police launched a separate inquiry. A file is being considered by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Jailed for fight

Two men were jailed for a year at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, for taking part in a fight at Paddington station between Millwall and Bristol City football fans. John Kilgannon, 22, of Southwark, southeast London — who had not been at the match — and Steven Tear, 37, of Sidcup, had denied violent disorder.

Killer escapes

A convicted murderer who married in jail is on the run with a waitress he met while at work in a pub on day release, police said. Peter McCluskie, 34, who would soon have been eligible for parole and had been on a rehabilitation project, was reported missing from Wealston prison, west Yorkshire, after his Tuesday shift.

Two die in crash

A motorist and a cyclist who had been involved in a minor road accident outside Banbury, Oxfordshire, died when they were struck by an oncoming car, police said. The motorist, named as Melvin Ratledge, 36, had stopped to check that the cyclist, Paul Jeffs, 41, was all right. The second motorist was treated for shock.

Crooks by hook

Burglars took several hours to steal 15 knitted jumpers worth more than £1,000 from a shop by hooking them from a display unit with a stick pushed through the lenerbox. Staff at Serana Ladies Fashion in Romsey, Hampshire, said that the material would not have been easy to hook without damaging it.

RNLI lifesaver

A retired teacher has just bought her second lifeboat. Olive Stone, 92, paid £11,500 for a rescue inflatable to be based at Whitby after saving £61,500 to pay for a new boat for Aberystwyth last year. The RNLI has named both boats after Miss Stone, of Barnsley, who now intends to buy a third.

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HALIFAX TESSA 2 Variable Rate	7.00	-	-	-	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matured TESSA	7.00	-	5.60	-	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BONUS GOLD (including bonus)	7.25	-	5.80	-	7.10	-	6.85	-	5.48	-	-	-
£100,000+	6.80	-	5.44	-	6.65	-	6.50	-	5.20	-	-	-
£50,000+	6.30	-	5.04	-	6.15	-	6.00	-	4.80	-	-	-
£25,000+	6.10	-	4.88	-	5.95	-	5.90	-	4.72	-	-	-
Monthly Income Option (including bonus)	7.08	7.25	5.66	5.77	6.94	7.10	6.70	6.85	5.36	5.46	-	-
£100,000+	6.65	6.80	5.32	5.41	6.51	6.65	6.37	6.50	5.10	5.18	-	-
£50,000+	6.18	6.30	4.94	5.02	6.03	6.15	5.89	6.00	4.71	4.78	-	-
£25,000+	5.98	6.10	4.78	4.86	5.84	5.95	5.79	5.90	4.63	4.70	-	-
£10,000+	5.58	5.70	4.38	4.46	5.44	5.55	5.39	5.50	4.23	4.30	-	-
60 DAY GOLD	6.95	-	5.56	-	6.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,000+	6.40	-	5.12	-	6.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	6.10	-	4.88	-	5.95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	5.85	-	4.68	-	5.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	5.35	-	4.28	-	5.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Income Option	6.74	6.95	5.39	5.53	6.60	6.80	5.32	5.45	4.26	4.34	-	-
£100,000+	6.22	6.40	4.98	5.10	6.08	6.25	5.35	5.48	4.18	4.26	-	-
£50,000+	5.94	6.10	4.75	4.85	5.79	5.95	5.03	5.15	4.02	4.09	-	-
£25,000+	5.70	5.85	4.66	4.76	5.56	5.70	4.85	4.95	3.72	3.78	-	-
£10,000+	5.22	5.35	4.18	4.26	5.08	5.20	4.35	4.45	3.10	3.14	-	-
SOLID GOLD	5.65	-	4.44	-	5.50	-	5.45	-	4.36	-	-	-
£50,000+	5.55	-	4.44	-	5.40	-	5.35	-	4.28	-	-	-
£25,000+	5.15	-	4.12	-	5.00	-	4.75	-	3.80	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.85	-	3.88	-	4.70	-	3.95	-	3.16	-	-	-
£5,000+	4.10	-	3.28	-	3.95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Income Option	5.51	5.65	4.41	4.50	5.37	5.50	5.32	5.45	4.26	4.34	-	-
£50,000+	5.41	5.55	4.33	4.42	5.27	5.40	5.22	5.35	4.18	4.26	-	-
£25,000+	5.03	5.15	4.02	4.09	4.89	5.00	5.03	5.15	4.02	4.09	-	-
£10,000+	4.75	4.85	3.80	3.87	4.60	4.70	4.65	4.75	3.72	3.78	-	-
£5,000+	4.02	4.10	3.22	3.27	3.88	3.95	3.88	3.95	3.10	3.14	-	-

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LIQUID GOLD	4.50	-	3.60	-	4.35	-	4.25	-	3.40	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	-	3.44	-	4.15	-	4.15	-	3.32	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.15	-	3.32	-	4.00	-	3.95	-	3.16	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.95	-	3.16	-	3.80	-	3.70	-	2.96	-	-	-
£2,500+	3.75	-	3.00	-	3.60	-	3.50	-	2.80	-	-	-
£500+	0.50	-	0.40	-	0.50	-	0.50	-	0.40	-	-	-
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT	5.95	6.08	4.76	4.85	5.95	6.08	5.35	5.46	4.28	4.35	-	-
£50,000+	5.65	5.77	4.52	4.60	5.65	5.77	4.90	4.90	3.92	3.98	-	-
£25,000+	5.30	5.41	4.24	4.31	5.30	5.41	4.65	4.73	3.72	3.77	-	-
£10,000+	4.60	4.68	3.68	3.73	4.60	4.68	4.35	4.42	3.48	3.53	-	-
£5,000+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HALIFAX CURRENT ACCOUNT	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£2,000+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£500 - £1,999	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 18% Student	4.00	4.07	3.20	3.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARD CASH	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Standard £50+	5.00	5.06	4.00	4.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Young Person's (Under 21 M/L)	5.00	5.06	4.00	4.04	5.00	5.06	-	-	-	-	-	-
YOUNG SAVERS £1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT	4.55	-	3.64	-	4.55	-	4.55	-	3.64	-	-	-
£10,000+	3.95	-	3.16	-	3.95	-	3.95	-	3.16	-	-	-
£2,000+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Income	4.46	-	3.57	-	4.46	-	4.46	-	3.57	-	-	-
£2,000+	3.88	-	3.10	-	3.88	-	3.88	-	3.10	-	-	-
TREASURERS ACCOUNT	4.90	-	3.92	-	-	-	4.90	-	3.92	-	-	-
£2,500+	4.35	-	3.48	-	-	-	4.35	-	3.48	-	-	-
£1+	0.85	-	0.68	-	-	-	0.85	-	0.68	-	-	-
CLOSED ISSUES (Not available to new customers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TESSA Gold	7.50	-	-	-	7.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Including maturity bonus	7.61	-	-	-	7.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax TESSA	7.00	-	-	-	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Including maturity bonus	7.78	-	-	-	7.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Reserve Bond	6.80	-	5.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax Extra One Year Bond	7.25	-	5.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

as being under 21 (under 18 or a student for Halifax Current Account). Compounded annual rates (C.A.R.) apply when full interest remains in your account. The non-resident rates of interest are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. Bonus Gold, Solid Gold and Liquid Gold non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities, companies and pension funds) are no longer available to new customers. Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2 and Bonus Gold bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.



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30th August 1997

Activists 'sent out guides on DIY anarchy'

BY LIN JENKINS

FIVE anarchists and animal rights activists devoted their lives to inciting people to violent action, from burning lorries to sending explosive devices through the post, a court was told yesterday.

Four were editors of a magazine called *Green Anarchist*, whose mail order service sold the illegal material that gave instructions on how to carry out attacks. One book told how to use a condom and a cigarette lighter to make a bomb which could blow out the windows in a room, gave advice on the best catapult for breaking shop windows and explained how to put etching fluid in a "squeeze" bottle.

Suggested targets included Boots, Ladbroke's, McDonald's, butchers' shops, military bases, laboratories and "the animal abuse industry", Richard Onslow, for the prosecution, told Portsmouth Crown Court.

He said: "They all wanted criminal damage to be done. They devoted their lives to it. It was full time. It was their occupation. It was not a hobby, it was not a joke."

"This is about spraying graffiti, sling-shots through butchers' windows, paint-stripper on cars, etching fluid on lorry windows, burning lorries, burning buildings and sending explosive devices through the post."

Nigel Mialland, 36, of Okehampton, Devon, Paul Rogers, 33, of Southsea, Hampshire, Steven Booth, 38, of Calgate, Lancashire, Saxon Burchinal Wood, 24, of Sandhurst, Berkshire, and Simon Russell, 33, of Pevensey, East Sussex, deny conspiring together, and with Robin Webb, press officer of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), to unlawfully incite peoples unknown to commit criminal damage between January 1991 and January 1996.

Mr Onslow said: "Each defendant did this for his own needs. Some are committed anarchists. Others have committed full-time views about

animal rights, others have strong views about environmental issues, road-building and so on. This is not about free speech, it is about inciting others to criminal damage."

All five were linked through the magazine of which Mr Rogers became editor in March 1991. It signalled a change of policy and he wrote that it was now free "to become a more unrestrained advocate of direct action". His "survival" section carried instructions on how to place siege spikes to stop vehicles getting into fields, how to make a medieval weapon used to stop horses and how to construct chain spikes.

"*Green Anarchist* magazine actively promoted direct action, actively promoted books and magazines about it and gave encouragement and information about how to do it," Mr Onslow told the jury.

Mr Booth was the magazine's North West contact and the author of another magazine called *Lancaster Bomber*. "He was another full-time

They all wanted criminal damage to be done. They devoted their lives to it. It was not a hobby, it was not a joke.

committed anarchist, an arm-chair revolutionary working this magazine," said Mr Onslow.

He ran a column entitled "Diary of Community Resistance", which listed incidents of direct action on battery farms, butchers' shops, hunt kennels and slaughterhouse lorries throughout the country.

Mr Molland, who graduated from Plymouth University in 1993, also founded his own magazine, called *Eco Vegan*,

and was animal liberation editor of *Green Anarchist*. He wrote an article parodying the *Janet and John* children's books, "instructing the most simple-minded how they could break windows". It described the characters driving down a road at night and firing a ballbearing from a catapult at a butcher's window. "Janet and John have been very naughty," it concluded.

Mr Burchinal Wood ran the magazine's mail order service. One book available, *Urban Attack*, featured a man in a balaclava holding a Molotov cocktail. It was "a primer for direct action", detailing — in its own words — "ways to hit the animal abuse industry where it hurts".

Material included instructions on making giant Molotov cocktails and a step by step guide to making a bomb from a cigarette lighter and a condom. A guide to disabling a lorry involved using superglue for the locks, sand in the fuel tank, wire cutters, paint, a screwdriver, a lawyer's bodkin for "stabbing tyres of any size with minimum noise and energy" and a potato to put in the exhaust pipe.

In a book entitled *Into the 1990s with ALF*, instructions were given on how to make an incendiary device for use inside stores, with a cigarette pack, a cheap watch, a soldering iron, timer and matches. Other instructions featured incense sticks to make an hour-long fuse for a bomb of inflammable liquid soaked in plastic bottles and stored in sponges.

Mr Russell ran the ALF supporters' group and passed information to *Green Anarchist*. He put on the Internet details of the activities of a group called the Justice Department, which sent calendar-tube bombs to a number of targets. "The Justice Department are in effect terrorists," said Mr Onslow.

The hearing continues on Monday.



Snap: Japanese women turned the tables on photographers as a friendship treaty with Kyoto was signed at Edinburgh council chambers

Rail chief who called for commuter guards quits

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE railway director pilloried over his plans to introduce "commuter guards" on trains leaving Britain for a job abroad, but he insisted last night that he had no regrets over his idea.

Mike Turner provoked controversy last month by calling on commuters to act as part-time guards on their way to work in return for free travel.

He is leaving Great Eastern trains next month for a managerial post in the Far East but denied that he was being forced out because of the uproar. He said that the railway industry would take on the radical idea "when everything has calmed down".

Mr Turner was forced to justify his plan to John Prescott, the Transport Secretary. The proposal prompted about 250 applications for

part-time guards' jobs that the company claimed it could not fill before the commuter scheme was announced.

Mr Turner said: "The timing might have been wrong, because there are difficulties with unions who are about to ballot over industrial action. But at another time, I'm certain there would be more support within the industry and that this will happen."

The RMT union is balloting members across the country over the possibility of industrial action in protest at plans to introduce part-time posts.

Mr Turner conceded that better assurances should have been given that training would be to the same standard as that given to full-time guards.

The commuter guard scheme was planned to oper-

ate on a handful of peak-time trains running to London from the Essex coastal towns of Harwich, Clacton and Walton-on-the-Naze. Commuters would have been paid for two hours, and have free rail travel worth up to £3,500 a year.

Mr Turner said that his departure had been agreed in May, more than two months before the plans were unveiled, after the company decided to split the commercial director's position into separate jobs.

Ian Buchanan, rail director of First Bus, owners of Great Eastern, said: "We supported Mike in the scheme and we still stand by it. We certainly are not dropping it." However, the company had enough applications from unemployed people and part-time workers not to need commuter guards.

Tree pest lured into sex trap

BY TIM JONES

SCIENTISTS are hoping the lure of sex can help to eradicate a new pest that threatens to ravage Britain's six million acres of commercial timber plantations.

An emergency pest control operation has been mounted from the north of Scotland to Cornwall after the discovery of 20 spruce bark beetles at the Shotton Paper Mill in North Wales. Voracious and fast-breeding, the eight-toothed *Ips typographus*, also known as the engraver beetle, particularly likes the Norwegian spruce that is popular for Christmas trees.

Roddie Burgess, head of plant health care for the Forestry Commission, said: "We are extremely concerned because it is regarded on the Continent as the most aggressive of the bark beetles. It

is very, very destructive. We have a sophisticated quarantine system to intercept them. "What is particularly worrying is that timber came from a British pine forest, raising fears they have got through our safety nets and are establishing breeding colonies."

Mr Burgess said more than 100 forestry sites would have to be scrutinised for signs of the beetle. Once a colony has been identified, forestry workers erect a 5ft high pipe impregnated with a chemical cocktail. This fools the male beetles into believing it is a distressed tree and they attack it, falling into a trap from which they cannot escape. Once inside, they emit their own sex scent to attract females which follow them to certain death.

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It may be beautiful, but it certainly isn't sport

Simon Barnes believes that increasing use of the glamour card is a bonus for the spectator, but not for the athlete

NO DOUBT about the image of the week. It looked rather like a frog about 95 per cent of the way through turning into a princess: a lengthy lady, nicely assembled and inverted, clad mostly in enormous rubber flippers and a pair of goggles. Clearly, however, a lady more goggled at than goggled.

Vive le sport. For this was Meghan Heaney-Grier setting a new United States free-diving record by plunging 165ft beneath the Floridian waves. She also works as a model. Don't they all?

Anna Kournikova is a 16-year-old tennis player. She has a £4 million contract with Adidas and is paid a bonus every time her picture appears in the papers in Adidas clothing. Which is often, for the baby-faced Kournikova is a comely child and newspapers, like Oscar, can resist anything except temptation. Once again, sex rears its pretty head.

Or rather, it doesn't. As the US Open tennis tournament approaches the end of the first week, we learn that, if Kournikova sleeps with her boyfriend in New York, he could be charged with statutory rape, which carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison.

The boyfriend is Sergei Federov, an ice-hockey player with Detroit Red Wings. An obliging prosecutor said: "Mr Federov had better watch his step, or more to the point, his hands." Which stood the story up nicely and cleared the way for yet another picture of Kournikova.

A couple of weeks ago, the British heptathlete Denise Lewis created a story of her own. Lewis won a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships but that



Clinging: Destivelle



Stripping: Lewis

was not the story. She posed naked for a sports magazine, *Total Sport*, but with a British team running kit painted on her skin. "I'm game for almost anything," Lewis said. "You only have one life, so why not live it dangerously at times?"

A more advanced school of thought would see this not so much as living dangerously as making a sound, cautious and conservative career move. Sport is increasingly big business, its participants famous as never before, and richer as never before. The winning double of sporting achievement and beauty unlocks the hearts, minds and purses of the world.

Kournikova is a very good tennis player, but by no means a great one. She went out in the second round of the US Open this week and her opponent, Irina Spireles, said afterwards: "It's frustrating to see the attention she gets." Kournikova said disingenuously: "It's not my fault if people write about me. I don't want them to

think I am doing it on purpose." Perish the thought. She reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon this year but was then hammered by Martina Hingis, also 16. Hingis was afterwards questioned about the rivalry. "What rivalry?" she said. "I beat her." But Kournikova still gets her fat contract.

The glamour card is a growing aspect of sport. A couple of years ago at the French Open, Mary Pierce played her tennis in a Little Black Dress. Neither she nor the photographers were unaware of the drama created every time she leant forward to receive a serve.

It has come to something when even gymnasts play the glamour card. A change in the rules has meant that gymnastics is no longer the exclusive preserve of pre-pubescent girls. At the Olympic Games last year, Svetlana Boginskaya, "the sphinx from Minsk", competed at the age of 23. Her lascivious floor exercise, an exhibition of the art of reeling and

writhing and fainting in coils, was, to say the least, unambiguous.

There is no telling where sex will break out next. In this country, climbing is seen as something to do with beards. Damart underwear and 14 pints of Theakston's. But it has become a seriously sexy sport in France, where a lady in skintight Lycra named Catherine Destivelle was described by a friend as "a wild-haired beast, primal, instinctive and animal".

The success of the last Olympics was beach volleyball. The sport has always been big in naturist films with titles such as *Take Off Your Clothes and Live*. The Olympics brought all this up to date, and more or less sanitised, in hot-lava Lycra and sunblock.

Sharon Davies, the former Olympic swimmer, has always traded on her looks as well as her power through the water. Two years ago, she put together a calendar of half-dressed sportswomen. It raised £10,000 for the Sports Aid Foundation, also quite a few hackles. These were not action shots of women who happened to be attractive, but out-and-out "glamour" photographs.

Naturally, Davies was unrepentant. "There is a huge drop-off rate among girls in sport at 16. If we can stop talented girls leaving sport through making it sexy, it can only be good in the long run."

The sexy sportswoman is not exactly a new idea. We can trace a line from Gorgeous Gussie Moran, through Chris Evert to Steffi Graf. We can recall lovingly the great Katarina Witt, the East German ice-skater. But the trend they set in motion is gathering pace.

Sport is about competition: beauty is only a by-product. Where the pursuit of beauty overtakes the pursuit of excellence, then sport — and its spectators — have lost their way. For a spectator to concentrate more on beauty than ability is not unpardonable. But there is an ever-greater temptation for the athletes themselves to make the same error.

The preening of Kournikova or Pierce is destructive of the single-mindedness required for sporting achievement at the highest level. This is the error that Graf never made, nor Witt. Many aspects of sport are beautiful, but the most becoming of all is excellence.

Sport, pages 38-48



Teasing: Kournikova is the tennis photographers' dream girl



Jumping: Boginskaya introduced sex to the floor exercises

Diving: Heaney-Grier



Posing: the diver lists another of her attributes as modelling

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Single-sex education takes the laurels again

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THIS summer's record pass rate is reflected in *The Times* GCSE league table, which is again dominated by girls' schools. The top three schools all exceed the previous best performance.

St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, appears in first place for the third time in five years, with Birmingham's King Edward VI High School for Girls in second place. Withington Girls' School in

Manchester, which topped *The Times* A-level table, is third.

Five state schools appear in the top 50, compensating for the disappointing placings for the state system at A level. The girls of Kendrick School, Reading, are the highest-placed, at 27th, with Reading School the top-placed boys at 51st.

Single-sex schools again fill most of the top places. Sevenoaks School, in Kent, and Bancroft's School, in northeast London, are the only fully co-educational schools in the

top 50. Nationally, the pass rate for the top grades of GCSE rose slightly this summer.

The percentage reaching A* rose by 0.2 points to 3.6 per cent and A grades were up by 0.3 points to 14 per cent.

In independent schools, however, the proportion reaching A* rose from 43.3 per cent to 45.2 per cent. More than nine out of ten entries were awarded a C grade or better, the equivalent of the old O level.

David Woodhead, national di-

rector of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "By every measure, this year's results from independent schools have outstripped national performances and demonstrated the wisdom of parents' investment in independent education."

The table is not exhaustive. Some of the leading state schools have not submitted their results and not all private schools belong to Isis, which publishes results for the independent sector.

The top-placed comprehensive

was Haybridge High School, in Hagley, Hereford and Worcester, in 34th place. All-ability intakes in comprehensive schools make it impossible for them to compete with the selective grammar and independent schools which dominate examination league tables.

However, many bettered their own record scores this year, as the GCSE pass rate rose again. The Government is to legislate to require local authorities and schools themselves to set annual targets for improvement at GCSE.

In the independent sector, more than 15 per cent of entries were awarded A* grades, compared with a national average of 3.6 per cent, an increase of 1 per cent on 1996. The Isis list covers more than 40,000 candidates and most of the leading independent schools.

At the head of the table, big rises were registered by Oxford High School for Girls, which went from 20th to tenth place, and South Hampstead High School, from 16th to eighth. Cheltenham Ladies' College slipped from eleventh to

46th place and Manchester Grammar School from seventh to 14th. Schools are ranked on the proportion of entries at A or A*. Where scores are level, positions are determined by the proportion at A*. Schools with fewer than 20 candidates are excluded from the table. Independent schools' results were provided by Isis, state schools' results were collected by Christina Awaru Owasu, Nazanine Vail and Ifana Vail.

Averil Burgess, page 20

GUIDE TO THE HIGHEST-RANKING STATE AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AT GCSE

State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% A	% A or A*	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% A	% A or A*	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% A	% A or A*	State Schools in bold type	No of pupils	% A*	% A	% A or A*
1 St Paul's Girls' Sch London, Lond C Grls	80	60.3	95.1		126 Rydal Penrhos Sch Colwyn Bay, Wales N Grls	37	20.7	52.3		376 Malvern Coll Malvern, Hereorks Mls	104	10.1	37.7		583 Withington Grammar Sch, Kent GM Sch Grls	102	8.0	27.0	
2 King Edward VI HS for Girls Birmingham, W Mds Grls	79	59.1	90.9		127 Warwick Sch Warwick, Wlvcs Grls	141	17.9	50.3		377 Bournemouth Sch, Bournemouth GM Sch Grls	142	11.7	37.6		584 Sutton Grammar Sch, Sutton, Surrey GM Sch Grls	107	8.8	27.0	
3 Withington Girls Sch Manchester, Manch Grls	72	58.8	88.8		128 Colyton Grammar Sch, Colyton, Devon GM Sch Mls	102	16.3	50.1		378 Deane Alton Sch, Potters Bar, Herts GM Sch Grls	168	10.9	37.6		585 St Bede's Sch Halesham, Sussex E Mls	88	5.5	27.0	
4 North London Collegiate Sch Edgware, Lond NW Grls	105	44.2	88.5		129 Torquay Boys' Grammar Sch, Devon GM Sch Grls	132	16.6	50.0		379 Old Overland High Sch, W Mds GM Comp Grls	91	12.4	37.5		586 Halesham Sch, Halesham, Hants Grls	124	5.5	27.0	
5 Wycombe Abbey Sch High Wycombe, Bucks Grls	79	43.7	88.4		130 South Wiltshire Sch, Salisbury, Wilt GM Sch Grls	112	16.5	49.9		380 Alton Sch, Alton, Cambs Grls	79	11.2	37.5		587 Colchester College, Newry LEA Sch Grls	129	8.2	26.9	
6 Guildford HS for Girls Guildford, Surrey Grls	73	41.0	88.4		131 Epsom Coll Epsom, Surrey Mls	112	16.5	49.9		381 Haverhill Old Hall Sch Norwich, Norfolk Grls	40	9.9	37.2		588 Carr's Grammar Sch, Lincs GM Sch Grls	109	8.2	26.8	
7 St Paul's Sch London, Lond SW Grls	161	40.4	88.2		132 Royal Free Sch, London, Lond NW Grls	132	16.5	49.9		382 Broomfield Sch, Broomfield, Essex Grls	126	10.0	37.0		589 St Helen's Sch, Lancashire VCL Comp Grls	132	7.0	26.8	
8 South Hampstead High Sch, Lond C Grls	94	39.4	88.1		133 Wytham Sch, Northampton, Northants Grls	120	16.4	49.8		383 Overton Sch, Overton, Cambs Grls	91	9.7	37.0		590 Overton Sch, Overton, Cambs Grls	119	7.0	26.7	
9 Oxford HS Oxford, Oxon Grls	121	37.9	80.4		134 St John's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	152	16.4	49.8		384 St Henry's Sch, Aylesbury LEA Sch Mls	144	7.8	37.0		591 Langley Grammar Sch, Berks GM Sch Grls	97	9.4	26.6	
10 Winchester Coll Winchester, Hants Grls	83	32.9	80.0		135 All Saints Sch, London, Lond C Grls	128	16.3	49.8		385 Bedford Modern Sch Bedford, Beds Grls	168	8.8	36.9		592 Bishop of E Col Birmingham, W Mds Grls	97	9.4	26.6	
11 Northern High Sch, Notts Grls	124	32.4	79.7		136 Trinity Sch, London, Lond C Grls	124	16.3	49.8		386 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	124	8.8	36.9		593 St John's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	97	9.4	26.6	
12 King Edward's Sch Birmingham, W Mds Grls	127	32.3	79.7		137 Kingston Grammar Sch Kingston upon Thames, Mdx	96	15.8	49.7		387 Newnham Sch for Girls, Chesham, Surrey GM Sch Grls	132	8.8	36.9		594 Framingham Coll Woodbridge, Suffolk Mls	75	7.3	26.5	
13 City of London Sch for Girls London, Lond C Grls	73	38.5	78.8		138 Houghton Sch, Newcastle, W Mds S Mls	38	16.2	49.6		388 Portia College, Amman LEA Sch Mls	212	8.8	36.9		595 St Edward's Sch, Chichester, W Sussex Grls	68	5.1	26.4	
14 Manchester Grammar Sch Manchester, Manch Grls	206	38.0	77.7		139 Merton Sch, London, Lond SW Grls	128	16.2	49.6		389 St Margaret's Sch, Brighton, East Sussex Grls	128	8.8	36.9		596 St Margaret's Sch, Brighton, East Sussex Grls	128	8.8	36.9	
15 Central Newcastle HS Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Grls	105	38.0	77.7		140 Merton Sch, London, Lond SW Grls	128	16.2	49.6		390 Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Gainsborough LEA Sch Mls	156	8.7	36.5		597 Camdean Sch for Girls, London LEA Comp Grls	122	8.0	26.2	
16 James Allen's Girls' Sch London, Lond C Grls	109	37.9	77.6		141 Notre Dame Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		391 Holy Trinity Sch, Kilmarnock, Hereorks Mls	22	7.9	36.5		598 Peterborough HS Peterborough, Cambs Mls	93	10.0	26.0	
17 St Andrew's Sch Winchester, Hants Grls	88	37.1	77.5		142 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		392 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		599 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
18 King's Coll Sch London, Lond SW Grls	130	36.2	77.1		143 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		393 Croydon Sch, London, Lond SW Grls	177	8.3	36.4		600 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
19 Haberdashers' Aske's Sch for Girls, Herts Grls	129	36.1	76.8		144 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		394 Chislehurst and Elm Park Sch, Kent LEA Sch Mls	177	8.3	36.4		601 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
20 Queen's Sch Chester, Cheshire Grls	88	35.4	76.0		145 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		395 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		602 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
21 St Paul's Sch London, Lond SW Grls	129	35.3	75.7		146 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		400 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		607 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
22 Westminster Sch London, Lond C Grls	116	34.0	75.8		147 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		401 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		608 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
23 Bedford Coll Bedford, Oxon Grls	121	33.7	75.0		148 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		402 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		609 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
24 Old Palace Sch, Croydon, Lond SE Grls	96	32.7	74.5		149 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		403 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		610 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
25 Howells' Sch, Cardiff, Wales S Grls	78	31.8	74.4		150 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		404 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		611 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
26 Peter Sch for Girls, Cambridge, Cambs Grls	87	32.5	74.2		151 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		405 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		612 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
27 Kendrick Sch, Reading, Berkshire GM Sch Grls	88	30.6	73.7		152 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		406 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		613 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
28 St Helen's Sch Northwood, Lond NW Grls	88	30.6	73.7		153 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		407 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		614 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
29 Godolphin & Latimer Sch London, Lond C Grls	103	31.2	73.8		154 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		408 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		615 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
30 King's Coll Sch London, Lond SW Grls	130	30.8	73.6		155 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		409 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		616 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
31 Nottingham HS for Girls Nottingham, Notts Grls	117	30.7	73.5		156 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		410 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		617 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
32 Badminton Sch Bristol, Bristol Grls	48	30.1	73.2		157 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		411 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		618 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
33 Loughborough HS Loughborough, Leics Grls	85	29.8	72.8		158 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		412 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		619 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
34 Whitbydale Sch, York, York Grls	84	29.8	72.8		159 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		413 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		620 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
35 Croydon HS South Croydon, Lond SE Grls	104	27.5	72.1		160 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		414 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		621 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
36 Sevenoaks Sch Sevenoaks, Kent Mls	128	25.8	72.0		161 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		415 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		622 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
37 Chesham Grammar Sch, Bucks GM Sch Grls	97	25.3	71.9		162 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		416 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		623 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
38 Haberdashers' Aske's Sch Borehamwood, Herts Grls	107	25.7	70.8		163 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		417 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		624 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
39 Leeds Girls' HS Leeds, Yorks Grls	92	24.8	70.8		164 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		418 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		625 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
40 Colchester County High Sch, Essex GM Sch Grls	96	24.7	70.8		165 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		419 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		626 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
41 Colchester County High Sch, Essex GM Sch Grls	96	24.7	70.8		166 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		420 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		627 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
42 King's Sch Chester, Cheshire Grls	73	31.0	70.0		167 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		421 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		628 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
43 Henrietta Barnett Sch, Hampstead, Lond LEA Sch Grls	82	32.7	69.5		168 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		422 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		629 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
44 Shaftesbury Sch, Yorks S Grls	82	32.7	69.5		169 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		423 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		630 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
45 Bancroft's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	104	32.7	69.5		170 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		424 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		631 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
46 Cheltenham Ladies' Coll Cheltenham, Glos Grls	142	32.1	69.2		171 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		425 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		632 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
47 Lady Eleanor Holles Sch Hampton, Lond SW Grls	97	28.8	69.0		172 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		426 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		633 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
48 King Edward VI Comp Hll Sch, Birmingham GM Sch Grls	44	25.4	68.8		173 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		427 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		634 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
49 St Mary's Sch Cleeve, Wilt Grls	72	25.4	68.7		174 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		428 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		635 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
50 Malvern Girls' Coll Malvern, Hereorks Grls	104	25.7	68.7		175 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	16.2	49.3		429 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5		636 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43	7.7	36.5	
51 Reading Sch, Reading GM Sch Grls	104	25.7	68.7		176 St Andrew's Sch, London, Lond C Grls	43</													

Gifts for fellows secure future of all-female college

Bestselling author and Hong Kong benefactor help to preserve St Hilda's status, reports David Charter

THE uncertain future of the last all-women Oxford college looked more secure yesterday after two donations to help to preserve its unique status.

St Hilda's was given £100,000 by Dame Catherine Cookson, the author, who was said to be thrilled at the college's recent decision not to accept university-funded male academics.

The college also disclosed yesterday that £700,000 had been pledged by Pauline Chan, a Hong Kong benefactor, to fund existing female fellowships in economics and physics.

St Hilda's, which narrowly rejected the appointment of male academics in a vote in April, remains short of fellows in chemistry and engineering. A fully endowed permanent fellowship costs about £1 million, but Dame Catherine's donation could be used for a Beale Fellowship, a five-year appointment named after the college's founder.

Dr Chan's gift will enable economics and physics fellows to be funded for the next ten years. The benefactor, who is governing director of Hailing Wong Enterprises in Hong



Cookson: has recently made gifts of £700,000

Kong, has a long-standing association with St Hilda's College, where she set up the two fellowships 15 years ago.

Senior college members had argued for men to be admitted for the first time in its 104-year history because of the college's difficulty in funding female dons in key subjects. They refused to rule out a further vote if the shortage of fellows worsened.

Dame Catherine's gift has been made "with no strings

attached". The 91-year-old bestselling author was contacted by the college in 1982 but decided to become a benefactor after April's pro-female vote.

"My gift to St Hilda's, which is for use at the college's discretion, is to indicate my support for women in education," Dame Catherine said yesterday. "I understand how hard women have had to strive for the right to be educated and how much it takes to achieve, even now, particularly when one comes from a disadvantaged background."

"I have written a number of stories on this theme and wish to encourage environments in which women can flourish as students and scholars."

Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, principal of St Hilda's, said: "Dame Catherine's gift could benefit the college in a number of ways. We shall be considering an appropriate use at our first governing body meeting of next term. We cannot, of course, guarantee that St Hilda's will be able to maintain its current position as an all-female college in perpetuity."

The donation is the third



Members of St Hilda's, Oxford University's only all-women college. In April it voted to reject male academics

announced in two days from the author, who is bedridden and unable to read or write because of an hereditary blood disorder, although she still dictates her stories on to tape.

Sunderland University was given £100,000 towards the development of its St Peter's campus and the Catherine Cookson Reading Room, and the Royal Victoria Infirmary

in Newcastle upon Tyne will receive £200,000 for research into gastro-intestinal disorders.

In recent months Dame Catherine has also donated

£250,000 to save the Hulton Gallery in Newcastle and £50,000 to help former servicemen who became ill after being involved in nuclear tests.

Discount customer cheated Tesco of £8,000

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

TESCO was criticised by a magistrate yesterday after a customer swindled the supermarket group of £8,000 with a loyalty card.

Dean Maddison, 34, from Exeter, was the second signatory on his girlfriend's Club Card Plus account and was issued with his own card. But the only information he had been asked to give was his name. The couple should have paid £15 a month into the account, which could be spent in the store and would entitle them to discounts.

Maddison found he could use the card at Tesco filling stations, even though he had no money in his account. The 270 filling stations were not connected to the main computer where credit information was stored.

Yesterday the magistrate, who sentenced Maddison to 240 hours' community service, described it as extraordinary that Tesco procedures could have been so slack. Maddison bought cigarettes and petrol worth more than £8,000 from garages across the South of England over a period of three months.

John Parkin, chairman of the bench at Exeter Magistrates' Court, said: "It seems extraordinary that Tesco could have started operating this card. It is a very serious offence, even if the store concerned was slack with their procedures. You carried on deliberately for no less than 164 occasions."

Maddison was ordered to repay the £8,317 that he admitted stealing at the rate of £30 a month, which will take him 23 years. Peter Seigne, representing Maddison, criticised Tesco for making only minimal checks on applicants. He said: "The amount of detail they asked was his title, Christian and surname. That was as far as Tesco made inquiries into the second cardholder's financial circumstances."

Tesco has since changed its procedures and all its filling stations are linked to computers in its 568 stores. The chain said that Club Card Plus application forms now required far more information.

Don wins battle over Cambridge promotions secrecy

BY DAVID CHARTER

A CAMBRIDGE lecturer passed over for a professorship has won a legal battle to force the university to change its "unfair and secretive" selection system.

Gillian Evans, a medieval history don, said she was delighted at the High Court ruling, which gives the university a year to make the necessary changes.

Dr Evans has campaigned for three years to make senior academics more accountable by giving the reasons for their rejection of candidates for the coveted post of

professor. Promotion means a salary increase for lecturers from £29,000 to £41,000, as well as enhanced career prospects.

Dr Evans, whose work is widely published, said: "These people have the power to give people a very prestigious title and a great big salary rise without having to be accountable to how they hand out these gifts."

"The judge has given the university the chance and the time to get its house in order. But I realise it is unlikely to do my own case any good because promoting me or not has become a political issue." In the

judgment, which was published this week, Mr Justice Sedley said: "For unsuccessful candidates, it is of great importance to know why they have failed... Occasionally it would become apparent that the decision-makers have misapprehended or overlooked something relevant."

He added: "The giving of reasons demonstrates that proper care has been taken over something of critical importance to the standing and career of each candidate."

The judge granted Dr Evans leave for judicial review but stayed the proceedings to allow the univer-

sity to amend its ways. He added: "I do not want this to be regarded as a sword of Damocles held over the head of the university. It has every right to take its own course and to defend that course if the stay is then lifted. Equally it may wish, by continuing upon its changed course or by further modifying it, to put itself beyond such criticisms."

A spokeswoman for Cambridge said the university was already reviewing its procedures, which could lead to new posts being created. A review at Oxford last year led to the creation of more than 100 new titular professorships,

which conveyed the title without extra salary.

"In some respects this is a victory for Dr Evans, but we were already going through the procedure of reviewing the appointments system," the Cambridge spokeswoman said. "We have been actively considering the system of professorships for two years and a final judgment will come out in June 1998, after a vote by all members of the university."

She added: "It is hoped that it will lead to an extension in the number of professorships, but at the same time it depends on funding."



Gillian Evans: delighted

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Catholic Church is ready to be born again

Tide of decline has been turned back after 25 years, writes Ruth Gledhill

THE Roman Catholic Church could be on the threshold of a worldwide renaissance, according to two sets of statistics published this week.

Countering the prophets who have predicted doom for a declining church with few members and fewer priests, the latest Vatican survey of ordinations shows a brisk rise in the number of men becoming priests worldwide. And after a week when thousands more youngsters than expected turned up in Paris for a Papal Mass on World Youth Day, a survey in Southampton has uncovered a

surprisingly large number of churchgoing Catholic teenagers.

The rise in the number of ordinations is nowhere near sufficient yet to offset the huge losses caused by priests leaving to marry, live a secular life or by those who die. Europe lost 10,000 in 25 years. But compared with the 1970s, when there were thousands more losses than ordinations, the situation has reversed and the Church is showing signs of hope for the future.

In 1995, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 289 more ordina-



Senior clergy who gathered to see the Pope last week will be encouraged by news that the number of priests has risen

tions than losses. According to the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, the overall number of priests in the world has gradually decreased from 451,000 in 1970 to 405,000 in 1995, but the biggest drop took place in the 1970s and there has been almost no fall in the 1990s.

The numbers of priests are increasing in Africa, South America and Asia but are still falling in Europe. Defections from the priesthood have more than halved, from 3,414 in 1970 to 1,121 in 1995.

In countries where ordinations are increasing, the number of Catholics is rising at an even faster rate. In Italy there are now 980 Roman Catholics to every priest but in Brazil the ratio is 8,000 to one, with nowhere near enough priests to meet the demand for daily Mass.

In Britain there were 89 ordinations in 1994 and 76 in 1995, although the number of diocesan priests fell from 4,719 to 4,400 over the same period. While few are expecting an increase in ordinations here, there are signs that the exodus from the priesthood is slowing and numbers of new priests are remaining steady. The

survey among parishes in Southampton showed that a third of Catholic teenagers attended Mass each week, countering the common view that youngsters were not interested in churchgoing.

One fifth said they went to Mass once a month. But, while the survey found evidence that churchgoing had a strong influence on their morals and beliefs, nearly all the 500 teenagers questioned disagreed with the Catholic Church's stance on birth control.

According to the *Catholic Herald*, it is now incorrect to

talk of a crisis in the Church. "Whenever two or three middle-aged Catholics are gathered, the subject guaranteed to unite them in misery is that of the lamentable state of the youth generation," the paper comments this week. "Then what happens? In the stifling heat of Paris in August, a million young people of effulgent faith and Christian commitment gather to celebrate the Eucharist offered by a frail and elderly Pope... the future is in the hands of today's young people - and judging by those in Paris, it should be good."

Credo

On a country walk, God is the best companion

John Haldane

FOR 30 years, the British nature artist Hamish Fulton has made art about the experience of walking in the landscape. His activity is usually solitary and often carried out in remote places, occasionally wildernesses. He also produces photographs and texts recording his journeys or expressing thoughts along the way. One such text reads:

Rock, fall, echo, dust. As with the walking journey, this spare utterance has something about it like the disciplined rituals of Zen artists.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in the practice of walking: walking for sport, for health and stress relief, and cross-country and hill walking for leisure. Part of the explanation of this interest is a concern to decelerate the pace of life, to disengage from motorised, high technology existence. Another is the belief that the quiet experience of nature offers confirmation that the world is imbued with value.

Reflective activity set apart from daily business, ordered by ritual and marked by reverence for nature: this is indeed characteristic of a religious outlook. But it is not confined to the East nor to ideas influenced by Zen, Tao or New Age pantheism.

Gerard Manley Hopkins was born in 1844 to a High Church Anglican family. In October 1866, at the age of 22, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church by John Henry Newman. Two years later, Hopkins joined the Jesuits.

Like Fulton, he kept diaries and notebooks recording his experiences of landscape. Hopkins's artistic quest was for an authentic voice in which to express his recognition of the specialness of nature. In *Spring*, he writes: *Nothing is so beautiful as Spring - / When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush.*

Fulton's simply ordered life also suggests images of medieval mendicants, such as the followers of St Francis, who rejected urban materialism for holy poverty and an intimate relationship with nature. Or again there is a reminder of medieval pilgrims such as trekked across Europe to Santiago de Compostela or to St Andrews, to revere the missionary apostles, themselves "holy walkers".

But there is something very different about the contemporary desire for walking in the landscape. Even though it often expresses a spiritual sensibility, it generally lacks focus. The passing countryside seems as if we and it were made for one another, yet that thought is idle without a belief in creation. Similarly, the idea that nature is imbued with meaning calls out for explanation, in the absence of which it invites dismissal as indulgent sentimentalism.

For St Francis and Hopkins, however, to walk in nature is to move within the sphere of God's creative activity. St Paul writes of

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how God's invisible nature may be clearly perceived in the created world (Romans 1), but like the power of locomotion that of perception may grow weak.

St Thomas Aquinas holds that all men seek God, and the current interest in walking may be part of an unrecognised pilgrimage. It is worth considering again the focus of Hopkins's clear-sighted vision of nature, this time from *God's Grandeur*:

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

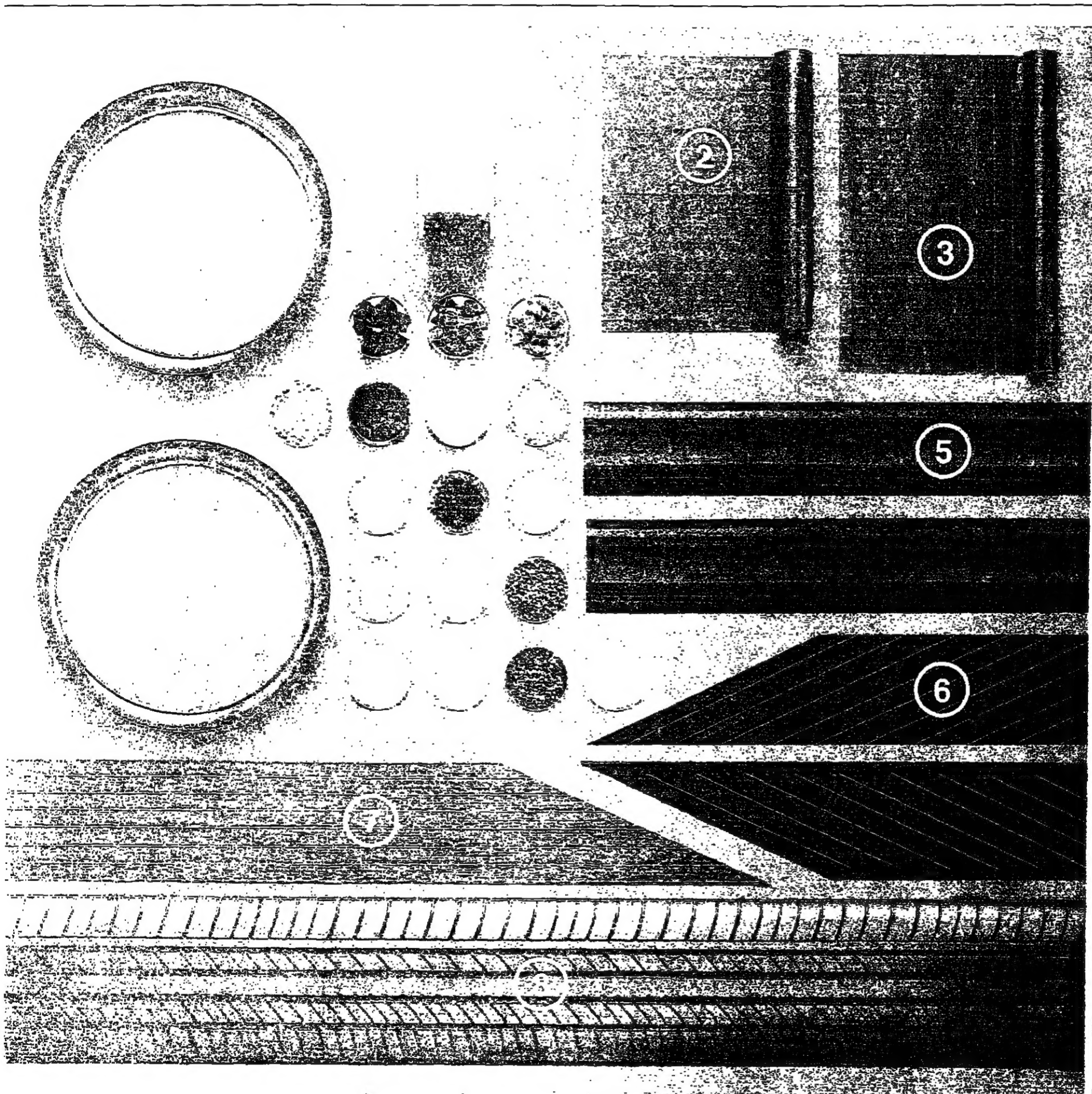
And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs -

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy in the University of St Andrews.



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Ask a German for his favourite recipe and you won't be surprised if it's inedible. Nevertheless, we bring you this highlight from the Continental tyre engineers' recipe book. At least you know this dish is meant to be rubbery.

1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients you have at home - unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.

2. Make an airtight inner liner by rolling out rubber into a wide thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre rises nicely and doesn't go flat.

3. In a calendaring machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpier and bumpier than German cuniard.

4. With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre 'beads'. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel rims.

5. Take two strips of rubber and form the outer sidewalls. These protect tyres from bangs and scrapes, and the chemicals added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and the sun. (Our engineers hate to see their pride and joy looking anything less than perfect.)

6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make belt plies. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.

7. Make the cap plies by embedding nylon in rubber to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.

8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and pass through an extruder. You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricant and the inside with silicon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure. Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with all the preparation, you can always get a take-away from your local tyre dealer.

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Islanders' dilemma over lost paradise

FROM TOM RHODES
IN MONTSERRAT

THE malevolent volcano of Montserrat stealthily claimed more victims yesterday as plans were drawn up to shrink the Caribbean island's safe zone further and move the British Governor's offices to makeshift huts in the north.

Under the latest expert advice of scientists, local authorities in the tiny British colony are intending to move the safety line from the Nantes River northwards to Runaway Ghaut, a valley near woodlands, affecting the lives of up to 800 residents, including David Brandt, the recently elected Chief Minister.

The decision will create more overcrowding on a 39-square-mile island which has lost two thirds of its infrastructure, its port and Plymouth, the capital. In the two years since the Soufrière Hills volcano awoke from four centuries of slumber.

Under the proposal, which has yet to be announced to the 5,000 islanders who still remain on Montserrat, a coastal strip of luxury homes will be left in territory deemed unsafe from the spewing mountain. The move for Frank Savage, the Governor, will be the third for the Governor's staff since the volcano erupted in 1995.

Based on new hazard assessment by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, which itself will be moving monitoring operations further north in the coming week, the plan has upset many, including David Hodd, an architect who has lived in the island for 27 years. "I am not moving. I don't think it is unsafe," Mr Hodd said. "And where would I move to, anyway?"

Like so many others on Montserrat, he remembers the time when this Caribbean pearl was a paradise untainted by the high crime rates and ubiquitous package tours that have plagued many of its neighbours.

It was a playground for rock stars such as Sting, the Rolling Stones and Mark Knopfler, all of whom cut albums at the famous Air Studios, the recording centre built by Sir George Martin, the Beatles manager.

The studios and 98 per cent of the island's housing stock were severely damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, but Montserrat nevertheless re-

EDGE OF DISASTER

As the volcano forces more into a shrinking safe zone, many on Montserrat believe there are few signs of a coherent policy by Britain

maintained a luxury destination for those in the know. "It was lively every night," said Margaret Wilson, a native of Sunderland who moved to the island ten years ago to run The Nest, a drinking haunt frequented by the rich and famous. "You never miss a Friday night out and you got to know all the stars."

Her Montserrat husband, Danny Sweeney, even taught Sting how to windsurf and still considers the star a friend. But that was then.

Since the vents in the Soufrière Hills opened, the stalwart inhabitants of Montserrat have watched a decline in island life. The church in St Peter's where The Police made the video accompanying *Every Breath You Take* now houses dozens of homeless islanders, with as many as 50 using a single lavatory.

The canons and bright red telephone box in Plymouth, the most strident symbols of colonial life, are covered in ash, the empty capital itself swathed in volcanic debris. "If we can't rent a house in the far north of the island, we will have to move," Ms Wilson said. "and I am not prepared to go back to England to live in some council house."

Britain has watched and waited, seemingly incapable of finding any agreed plan for an island first sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and settled by Irish Roman Catholics about 140 years later. Six thousand people have left in the past two years for other parts of the Caribbean.

The crisis reached its worst point on June 25 when 19 people were killed as the volcano's pyroclastic flows of molten rock crashed down the sides of Chance's Peak, engulfing whole villages in their wake.

Although the Labour Government has agreed a £41 million package of assistance, many islanders believe it is not enough. The local Government, brought to its knees by the volcano, forcing the resignation of Bertrand Osborne, the former Chief Minister, has demanded more money from Britain, arguing that the mother country has failed in its responsibilities.

Whitehall organised a partial evacuation after George

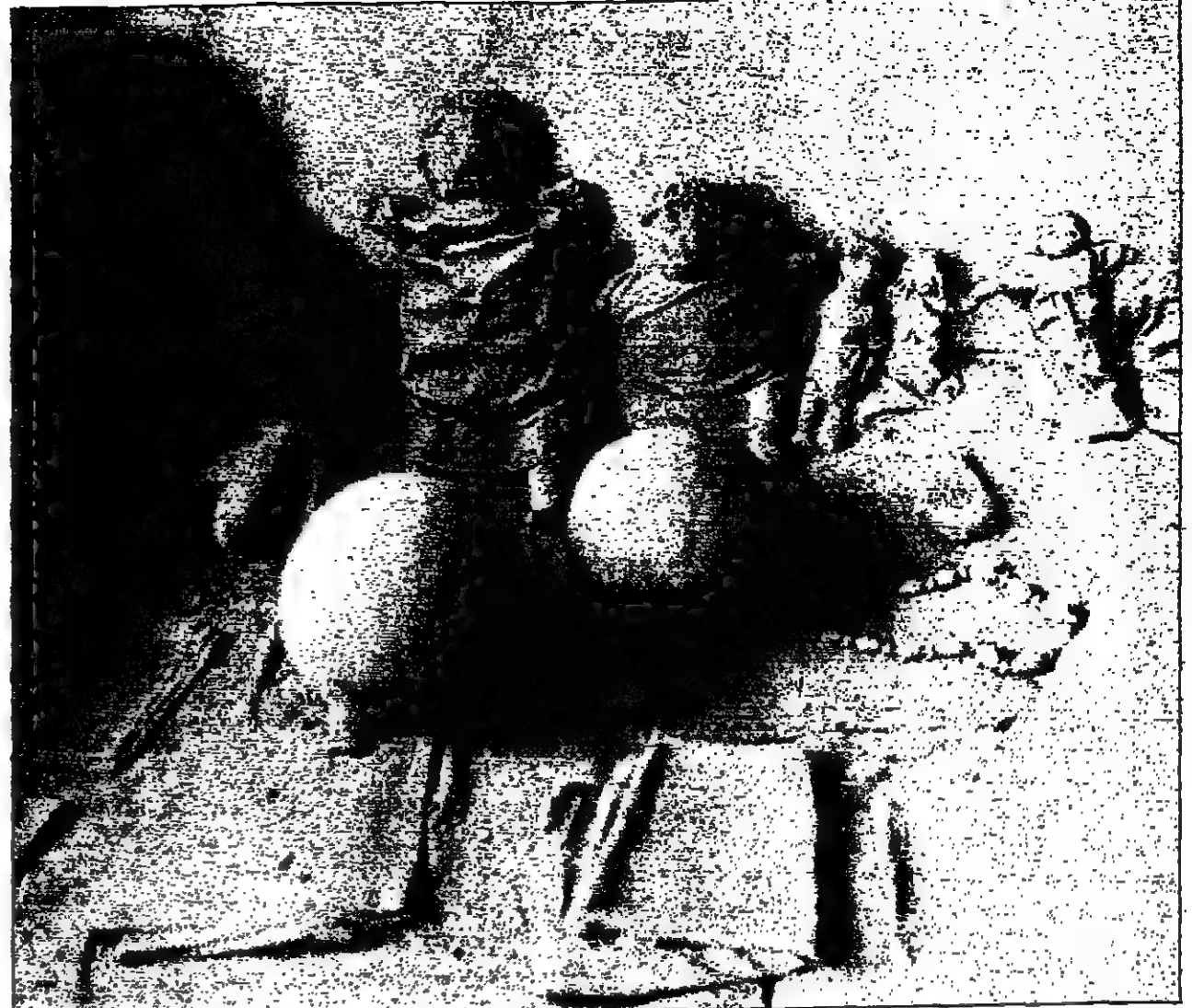
Foulkes, International Development Minister, apparently misunderstanding scientists' views, spoke of a "cataclysmic eruption".

The evacuation has failed to attract many in Montserrat and ministerial mistakes have been compounded by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who snubbed an invitation to visit Montserrat last week, and accused local authorities of "playing silly political games" and of asking for "golden elephants".

Although she has since had to hand the reins of policy to a task force headed by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, many on Montserrat believe there are still few signs of a firm policy.

Mr Foulkes, who is scheduled to visit Montserrat on Monday, will face a barrage of questions.

As Mr Brandt put it yesterday: "For two years we have been offered promises and when those promises become a reality, then I will believe them."



Ash-covered dolls in a Plymouth shop. Merchandise was abandoned when the Montserrat capital was evacuated

"I am not prepared to go back to England and have to live in some council house"

British insurer offers cover for homes in north

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the biggest property insurers on Montserrat said yesterday it would continue to insure homes in the "safe" area of the Caribbean island despite fears that further eruptions could cause millions of pounds of damage.

Royal & Sun Alliance, the large corporate UK insurance group, withdrew cover earlier this month for homes in the south of the island, covered in volcanic ash. But it said it would continue to offer cover for policyholders in the as yet unaffected north of the island when policies came up for renewal. At Lloyd's of London, which has reinsured a large part of the insurance risk, a spokesman said: "We do not yet know what our liabilities will be. If the whole island blows up, we would be able

to cope with the losses. It is not as catastrophic as a hurricane hitting a densely populated part of the United States."

Part of the problem for Royal & Sun is that insurance cover is administered by an agency in Montserrat, from whence all records have had to be flown to Antigua where the insurer has a subsidiary. Sun Alliance Eastern Caribbean. A team of experts is now trying to quantify losses.

Mike Jones, a spokesman for the parent company, said cover for the island was constantly under review. "We are taking the advice of volcanologists and geologists and will

EDGE OF DISASTER

modify our cover as we see appropriate." He added: "If the volcano disintegrates and the whole island is destroyed, there will be a significant impact on our business in that part of the Caribbean. However, we are an international company with many overseas divisions." Royal & Sun has operated in Montserrat for 30 years and continued to offer cover after the volcano unexpectedly became active in 1995. Islanders have also traditionally bought cover from two Caribbean-based firms, Nemwill and United Insurance, both of which sent letters to homeowners last week warning them that cover would be withdrawn. The three firms, between them, account for nearly all of the insured property on the island. They argue that they cannot renew contracts in the south of the island because they will lose money since the volcano is still active.

The other invitation to feel the effects of the volcano's destructive power is the Montserrat Building Society. It has suffered a double whammy: homeowners have been defaulting on mortgage payments for homes they believe they may never return to, while savers have been withdrawing money to pay for passage off the island.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Volcano havoc could last years, scientists say

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

EDGE OF DISASTER

THE eruption of the Soufrière volcano on Montserrat could continue for years, scientists who are monitoring the volcano believe.

Previous eruptions of the same type on the Caribbean island have lasted about five years, says Dr Willie Aspinall, a British expert who has recently returned from working at the Volcano Observatory on the island.

"So far the volume of material extruded from the volcano — about 100 million cubic metres — is less than half and probably only about a quarter of what we can infer from previous eruptions," he said.

"That means that another three to four years of eruption would not be a surprise."

The team of scientists cannot rule out an even longer timescale, as some lava dome eruptions of the same type

develop into activity lasting for up to 50 years. But in spite of remarks made by George Foulkes, the Minister of Development, a catastrophic explosion is the least likely of scenarios painted by scientists.

They described this as a "remote possibility" whose probability of occurrence, though never absolutely precluded, is extremely low. "The best estimates for such an event is one in 10,000, although some scientists see it as negligible," the team concluded.

The most likely outcome, they believe, is a continuation of the present eruption at about the same intensity. That is little consolation for the islanders as the eruption has claimed the southern half of the island, where most of the facilities are.

observations taken before the tiltmeters were destroyed showed correlations with data from a network of seismic sensors arranged around the volcano. The seismic sensors are still working, so data from them can be used to infer what the tiltmeters could have been showing.

The best instrument, however, remains the human eye. The volcanologists spend several hours a day standing around at sites to the east and west of Soufrière, waiting for breaks in the cloud so that they can see what the volcano is doing. If the opportunity arises, they also make observations from a helicopter. "It's pretty appalling," says Dr Aspinall. "You don't get much sleep."

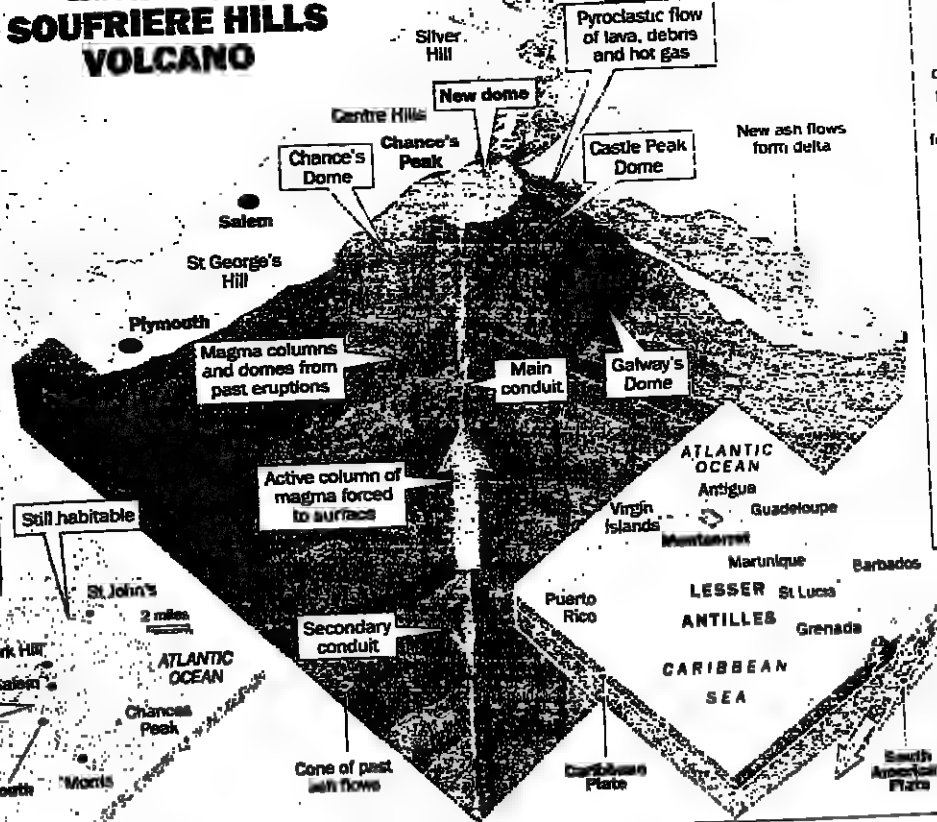
The team also uses laser beams and the global positioning network of satellites to detect deformation of the volcano, which gives an indication of movement within it. These signals are useful for monitoring changes over a month or so. They are detecting minor changes that are difficult to interpret.

If dramatic changes were seen they could prelude a serious explosion such as the one which destroyed Mount St Helens in northwest United States in 1980. But no such changes have been detected.

When the volcano does stop erupting, nature will quickly start to recolonise the damaged land. When the eruptions stop, a process called succession will gradually rebuild the cloud forests of the Soufrière Hills. But Dr Deborah Brozman, an American biologist who has studied the effect of the volcano on Montserrat, says that it will be a long process.

GREAT ERUPTIONS	
Thera, Greece	150BC Island destroyed
Vesuvius, Italy	79AD Destroyed Pompeii
Isola, Italy	1669 20,000 killed
Katmai, Java	1586 10,000 killed
Tambora, Indonesia	1815 Largest eruption: 90,000 killed
Komodo, Java	1883 Largest explosion: 36,380 killed
Mount Pelee, Martinique	1902 26,000 killed, island abandoned
Mount St Helens, USA	1980 65 killed
Lambington, Papua New Guinea	1951 3,000 killed
Nevada del Ruiz, Colombia	1984 24,000 killed
Mount Unzen, Japan	1792 10,000 killed
	1991 38 killed

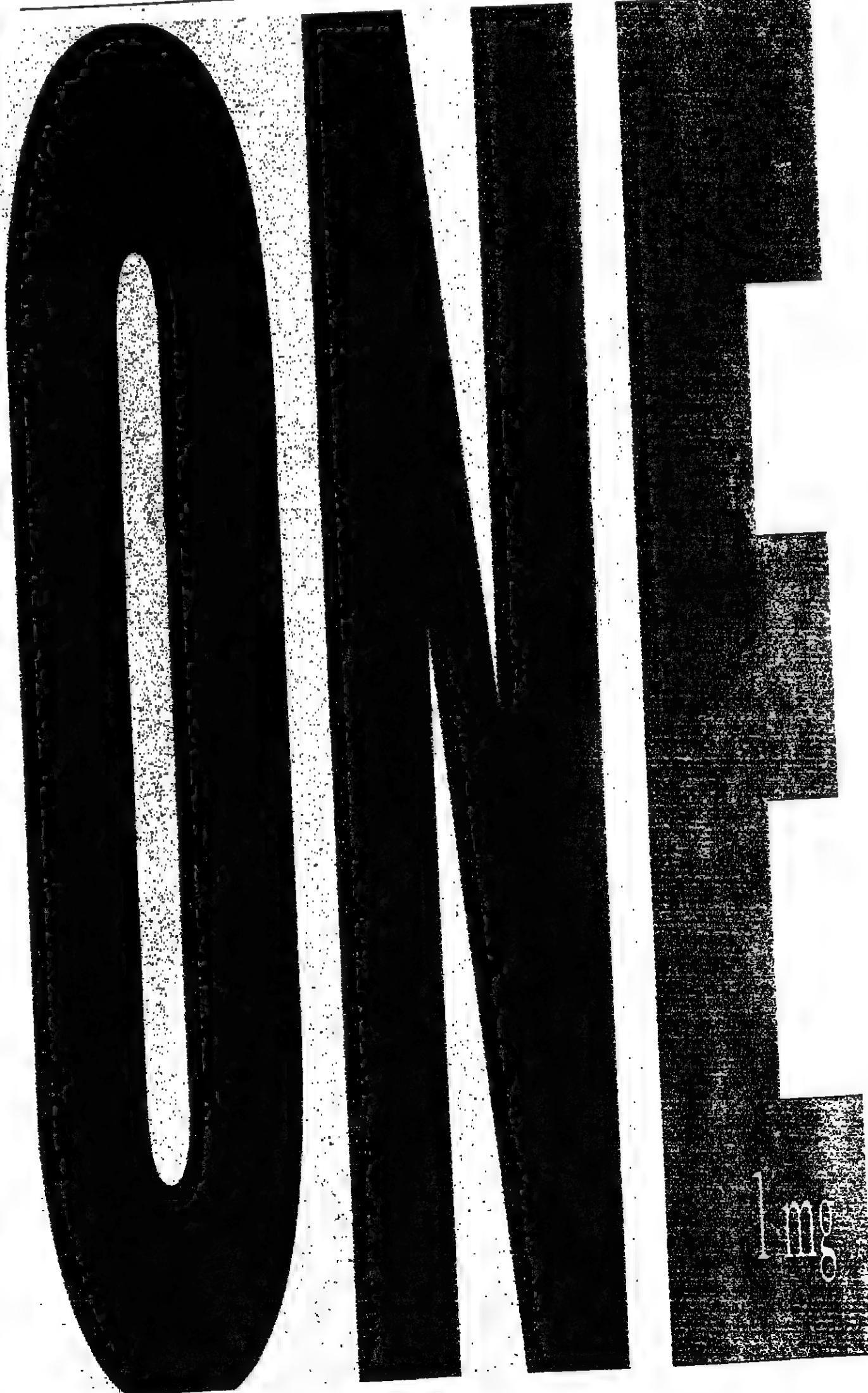
INSIDE THE SOUFRIERE HILLS VOLCANO



The worst outcome
The greatest danger is that the Soufrière volcano could explode violently, with great loss of life. Such catastrophic eruptions occur in the Antilles chain only once every tens or hundreds of thousands of years. But if this does happen, damage would not be restricted only to Montserrat. Neighbouring islands could also feel the effect, while world climate might be changed for a year or two.

The best outcome
The best outcome would be that the volcano quickly becomes inactive without doing any further damage, allowing rapid tropical growth to begin the task of restoring Montserrat's beauty. Scientists believe that it could take 50 years or so before the cloud forests are fully restored. The most likely outcome lies between these two extremes but is almost impossible to predict with any accuracy.

The Antilles were formed by a ridge thrown up as the South American plate slid under the Caribbean plate. Success within this ridge causes cracks to form, up which the magma flows.



FATAL DISEASES

cers' Warning
ing Nicotine



The war memorial in Plymouth, surrounded by ash

Tourism chiefs forecast boom

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

EDGE OF DISASTER

OFFICIALS on Montserrat plan to attract large numbers of "volcano tourists" to the devastated island once the immediate threat of further eruptions is over.

Montserrat was one of the least known Caribbean islands until the volcano made international news. Now local tourism chiefs believe that the island can benefit from the publicity by encouraging holidaymakers — especially Americans — to watch the explosions and clouds of steam and ash from a safe distance. One possibility is to run cruise ships close by, enabling passengers to watch the lava flow through binoculars, or to fly sight-seeing tours above the volcano.

Volcano watching, although not attracting a huge following, does already have hundreds of devotees. Derek Moore, operations director of the British tour operator Explore Worldwide, said there was a small but regular demand for organised visits to seven main volcano areas around the world.

"They are only small groups and the most popular is a visit to three volcanoes in Sicily," he said. "We send 12 groups each year to see Stromboli and others on the

island and generally get around 16 people in each."

Other destinations include Ecuador, Nicaragua, Iceland, the Azores and Crete.

"People are interested in the historical effects volcanoes can have on a country. Even though they may be extinct many people find themselves fascinated to see at close hand how the Earth's geology is made up and the impact volcanoes have on the history of a country."

The problem with Montserrat, however, is that it is extremely dangerous and we cannot have people risking their lives.

Debra Taylor, the marketing manager of Arctic Experience, last year organised two tours to see the effects of the volcano under the glacier in Iceland. "We took about 80 people who were keen to photograph the glacier and the iceflows. We were able to fly through the plume and see the geothermal activity. But although many people like to include a visit to the geysers, it is not a mainstream activity."

The Montserrat volcano is likely to continue to be active for at least five years.

Mayor tipped for president

RUDOLPH GIULIANI, New York's Republican Mayor, could one day become the first Italian-American President of the United States.

That is not just my opinion. It is the firm view also of Mario Cuomo, the former Governor of New York state, and the last Italian-American politician of whom it was also said that he would one day become the first Italian-American President.

According to Mr Cuomo, a Democrat, if Mr Giuliani wins the city's mayoral race in November — and he is as likely to do so on current form as there are certain to be glitches next week on board the Russian space station Mir — "he can run for anything he wants... he can run for President. Governor, the Senate, whatever he wants".

Unlike Mr Cuomo, the Mayor has never been regarded as an

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S NEW YORK



"ethnic" politician. His appeal extends far beyond the Catholic-Italian constituency: Jews back him, as do the city's Hispanics and "Anglos". Black voters are wary of him, but not as wary as they might have been had he not handled a recent case of alleged police brutality against a Haitian man with exemplary statesmanship, reminding the police brusquely that America is a "civilised society".

Mr Giuliani should not now be seen merely as a "Republican". Ed Koch, the former Democrat Mayor,

has said that he will vote for him in November, as have a number of Democrat city councilors. As Mr Cuomo said recently, the Mayor is now an "upper politician, bigger than Democrats, bigger than Republicans".

The Mayor could be the answer to the Republican Party's despairing prayers in this dark era of President Clinton's second term. Mr Giuliani is the only active Republican figure today with enough oomph to take the battle to the Democrats. He is honest, too,

and a workaholic of epic proportions. A genial, hands-on bruiser who speaks in a clear, demotic tongue, he remains untainted even after a recent attempt by *Vanity Fair* magazine to derail his re-election campaign.

The magazine ran an ill-researched article stating that he had committed adultery with an aide. It was a gratuitous attack which tarnished not Mr Giuliani but the magazine itself. The Mayor's reputation, in fact, grew sizeably as he stood defiantly by his wife and the aide. As one New Yorker put it: "He was a darn sight more convincing than Clinton has ever been."

Mr Giuliani has always denied that he has any presidential ambitions. This makes sense: New Yorkers prefer their mayors to be earthy, not "uppity", and he must not be seen to covet the White House too much too soon.

Queens says no to queen

CATHERINE of Braganza, the Queen consort of Charles II, is facing accusations of racism in New York, nearly 300 years after her death in Lisbon.

In a nutshell, this is the story, so typical of the overheated approach to history that is prevalent in radical black quarters in the United States. A group called the Friends of Catherine wishes to erect her statue in Queens, the New York borough which derives its name from the Queen in question.

They have acquired a big, bronze statue, too, and a handsome one it is.

Yet black "community groups", led by the Rev Al Sharpton, New York's best known rabble rouser, have denounced the statue as "a racist symbol of slavery". Why? Because 17th-century Portugal was involved in the trade of slaves between Africa and the New World.

Mr Sharpton has vowed to block the installation of the statue that is causing the trouble. In a rant last week before a group of protesters, he said: "To salute a slave mistress is tantamount to spitting in the face of everyone in Queens and everyone in New York."

Curiously, the reverend protester did not explain why the spitte stopped abruptly at the city's boundaries, and did not also besmirch the rest of America.



Giuliani: the Mayor appeals across city's ethnic divides

Bad spell for Yankees

ORTHOGRAPHY is the sort of word one does not want to utter in Yankee Stadium.

Baseball fans are aghast here after learning that eight of the eleven new plaques installed in the baseball team's "hall of fame" are marred by spelling mistakes.

Joe DiMaggio's graceful stroke was "one of baseball's [sic] greatest pleasures". The legendary Babe Ruth, too, is not spared: "The Babe singlehandedly lifted baseball to new heights with his

unlimited talent and unbridled [sic] love for the game." Others to suffer are Reggie Jackson, Phil Rizzuto, Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra. The *New York Post*, which ran the story on its front page, could not conceal its civic anguish: "Is this Yankee pride?"

As letters of indignation poured in to the Yankees' offices by the sackload, the club's managers promised to fix the plaques "before the week is out". The promise was not made in writing.

IT HAS been reported that John Gotti Jr, 33, son of the imprisoned Mafia boss John Gotti Sr, has taken over the city's Gambino clan. The Mafia is no longer the force it was, of course, and its decline cannot be better depicted than by the new boss's clothes. Whereas his father wore only the best silk suits (handmade in Little Italy), Junior likes nothing better than to wear red nylon tracksuits and blue baseball caps. And he can't speak Italian.

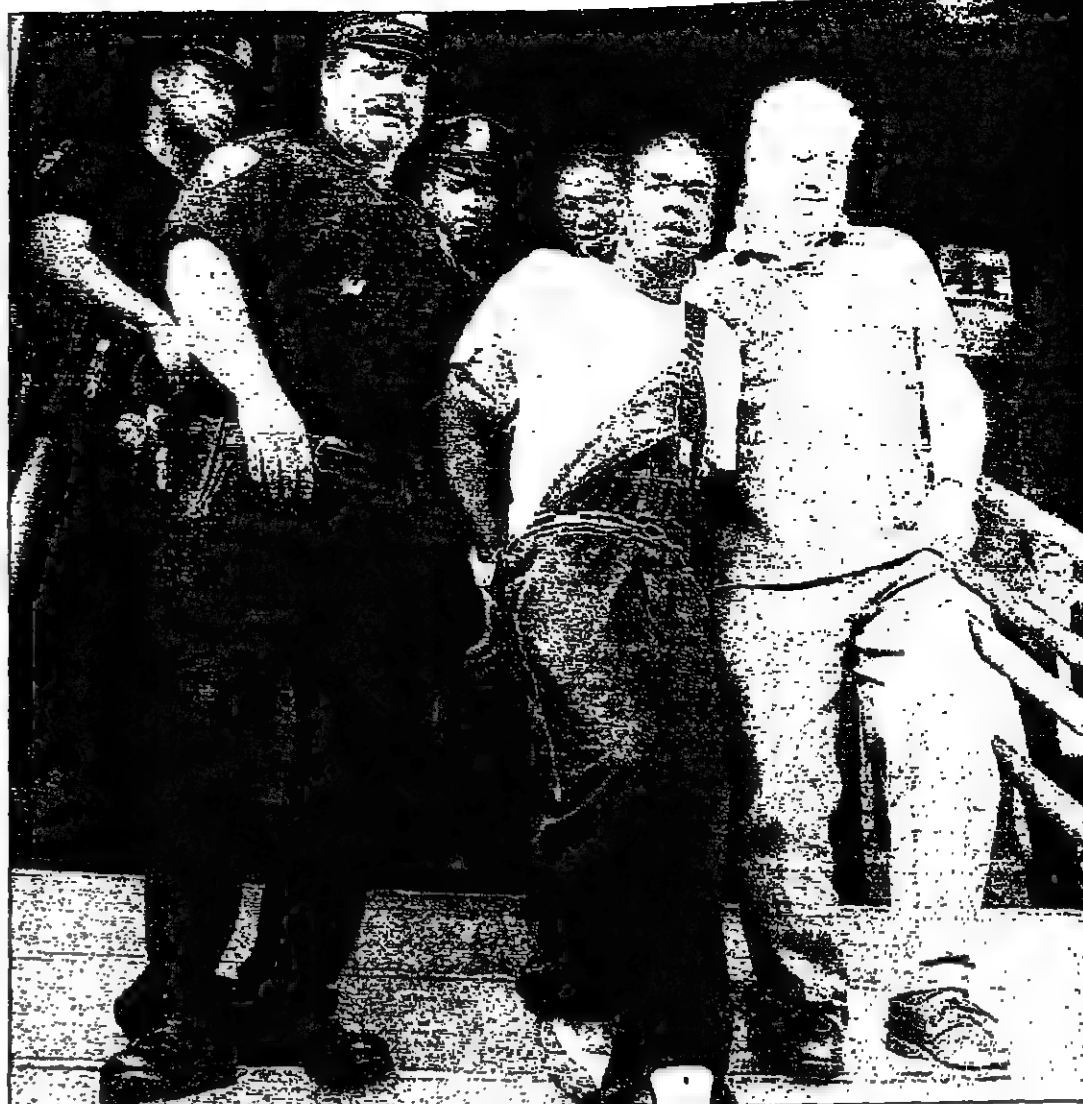
NEW YORK is holding its breath in anticipation of a "novel" by Oliver Stone, 50, due out here on October 1. A Child's Night Dream was written when the film-maker was only 20. It contains lines like: "The alienation started the day they stole me from the womb. In Paris. I remember. The long swim. It was dark... And from the liquid cave I poked my head and see. What Adam and Eve first knew in Paradise." And the style? Acne baroque.

Duchess of Pork's public fast

NEXT week the Duchess of York, in her guise as spokesman for Weight Watchers, will present a "new, ultra-simple diet". She will do so, dizzyingly, on the 64th floor of a Manhattan skyscraper, before a scrum of intrigued hacks.

According to Rubenstein Associates, her agents, she will "banter with chefs (in full chef's attire) bearing trays of her favourite, but formerly forbidden, foods as she unveils a revolutionary diet from Weight Watchers that allows every conceivable food indulgence".

There will also be served the preview of her first television commercial for the company she endorses. Sources say that viewers can expect the following self-deprecating gags, dished out by the Duchess: "Dieting is harder than having a thumper mother. It's harder than being called the 'Duchess of Pork'. It's harder than paying off a million-dollar debt." Dieting is also "harder than seeing yourself in a three-way mirror, harder than keeping a stiff upper lip. It's the hardest thing in the world, staying on a diet."



Lesshawn Williams, 17, is arrested for a slashing attack in the Bronx during a gang round-up

Police struggle to stem brutal tide of 'Bloods'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A POLICE blitz through New York, designed to foil the establishment in the city of the notorious "Bloods" street gang from Los Angeles, has led to the arrest of 167 men aged between 14 and 24.

The crackdown, which involved flooding parts of the city with hundreds of uniformed and plain-clothes officers, was codenamed "Operation Red Bandana", after the distinctive headgear favoured by "Bloods" members.

The "Bloods" gang, which is at war in Los Angeles with the equally notorious "Crips" gang, had been eyeing New York since the beginning of the year as a place with fresh criminal pastures. But Howard Safir, the city's Police Commissioner, yesterday made clear that he was "determined to prevent New York from becoming an outpost for cold-blooded thugs".

The "Bloods" are, indeed, a cold-blooded outfit. The gang's raison

d'être, as gruesome as it is uncomplicated, is to inflict violence on their "enemies" — up to, and including, death. In their penchant for violence, however, they are no different from a number of other gangs, several of which exist in New York. These include the "Homicide Brims" of Harlem and the "3 Trey Gangsters Shotgun Crew" of Brooklyn.

The "Bloods", however, are regarded by the police with particular distaste. Their initiation rites are by far the most cruel, and involve fresh recruits slashing random victims across the face. In fact, it was just such an "epidemic" of face slashings, detected in the city's predominantly black areas — the Bronx, Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights in Brooklyn, and Far Rockaway in Queens — that alerted the New York police to the presence of the "Bloods" in the city.

Inspector Jose Cordero, chief coordinator of the New York anti-gang unit, said: "This street gang attracted our attention because of the slashing incidents."

Last week six teenagers, aged between 13 and 16, were charged with slashing a homeless man's face in a gang initiation in St Nicholas Park in Harlem. The man's nose had been severed in the "rite". It is believed that the slashing was performed by a 14-year-old, while the others were present as "witnesses" to authenticate the ritual.

City authorities feared that with the reopening of the city's schools next week, young male children would be subjected to a muscular recruitment drive by the "Bloods" gang, eager to establish a fieldwork in New York. Inspector Cordero said that the timing of Operation Red Bandana was intended to offset that effort.

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Australia puts back the clock for 2000

FROM ROGER ALANARD
IN SYDNEY

JOHN HOWARD, the Australian Prime Minister, has announced that the country will celebrate the millennium a year after the rest of the world.

His declaration to Parliament has shocked this hedonistic society, which saw the turn of the century as an opportunity to embark on the biggest and noisiest of celebrations.

However, Mr Howard is probably right, basing his view on simple mathematical logic. The decision follows questions from Barry Jones, the President of the Labor Party. Was it not a fact that a child did not celebrate its first birthday until 12 months after it was born, he asked. "This millennium would only be 999 years long if the start of the third millennium and the 21st century was celebrated in 2000," he said.

Historian wins case against Tokyo censors

FROM ROBERT WHYTEANT
IN TOKYO

Schoolchildren may be told about wartime atrocities

JAPANESE schoolchildren will learn about a particularly horrific war crime after the supreme court yesterday ruled that the Government acted illegally in censoring textbook references to Unit 731, the Imperial Army's germ warfare unit.

The ruling was a personal triumph for Saburo Ienaga, the distinguished historian who has waged a 32-year legal battle against official censorship whitewashing Japanese wartime atrocities.

Professor Ienaga, 83, first filed his epic lawsuit in 1965, after the Education Ministry ordered him to delete or revise passages in a textbook he wrote on the grounds they showed Japan in a negative light.

The offending passages included an account of the infamous Unit 731, which conducted medical experiments on live prisoners in northeastern China during the war. Thousands of POWs, mainly Chinese and Korean, died lingering deaths after being injected with bubonic plague, cholera and

typhoid, or infected with syphilis. In the death camp near Harbin, prisoners were strapped to a table while Japanese doctors cut into them to study how the bacilli affected internal organs. In other experiments doctors drained prisoners' blood and replaced it with that of horses to test if such transfusions might be of use to wounded Japanese soldiers.

Although ample survivors' testimony — and confessions by Japanese members of Unit 731 plagued by their conscience — were available, the Government claimed in 1983 that there was "no credible academic research" to back up Professor Ienaga's account and ordered its deletion.

The supreme court yesterday said the Government's action was unlawful and awarded token compensation of 400,000 yen (£2,100). The ruling means the Education Ministry is powerless to prevent schoolchildren being taught about

one of the darkest chapters in the nation's recent history.

Media commentators had not expected such a clearcut victory for the professor. In two earlier cases, the court had sided with the Government, but other legal challenges by Professor Ienaga have obliged Japan to own up to wartime atrocities.

Thanks to the professor's tenacity, references to the 1937 Nanking Massacre, in which an estimated 250,000 Chinese civilians were raped and massacred, have found their way into textbooks.

And for the first time, textbooks used in classes this year mention the "military comfort women", the Korean and Chinese women who were forced to provide sex in Imperial Army brothels before and during the war.

In another victory for Professor Ienaga, the Government was forced in 1982 to acknowledge that the word "advance" used in text-

books was a euphemism for Japan's invasion of Asia, and accepted it amounted to "aggression". The affair unleashed protests in China and Korea, and the Tokyo Government promised to "lend an ear" to overseas criticism and reassess the contents of textbooks.

The Government's policy was to force writers of textbooks to suppress unfavourable episodes of Japanese history. Professor Ienaga said last night, "but I could not accept the principle of rewriting history, and would have fought on until I die if necessary".

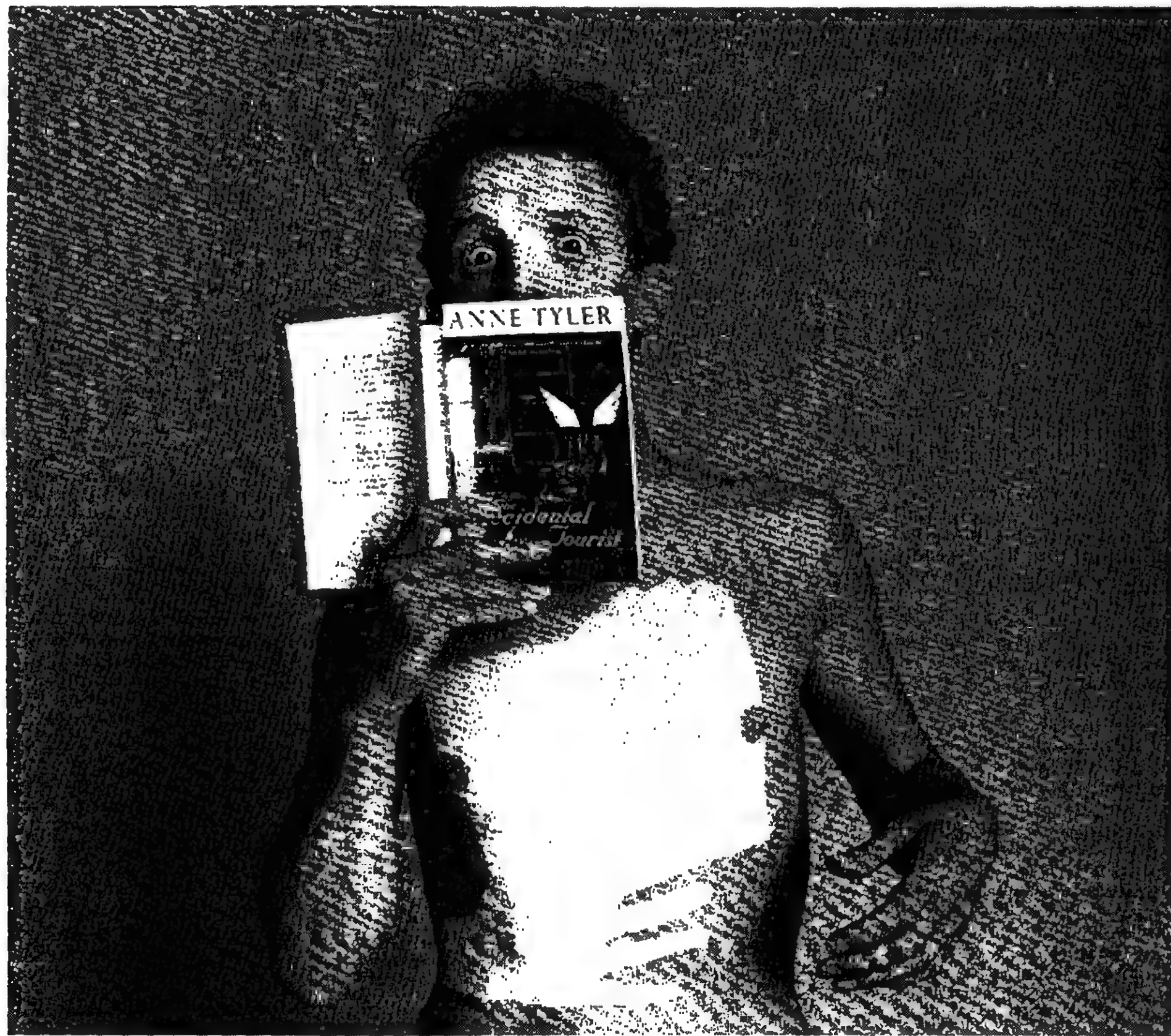
Takashi Koseki, the Education Minister, said: "We will take the ruling seriously and continue to make sure contents of textbooks are appropriate."

The court ruling angered conservatives campaigning against textbooks mentioning Japanese atrocities. A group of scholars and business leaders called the Committee to Produce New Textbooks demanded that the Government step in to prevent "masochistic" portrayals of history that slander the nation and cast Japan as a villain.



Professor Ienaga yesterday after the court ruled in his favour

Leading article, page 21



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WORLD IN BRIEF

Bomb blast rocks Plavsic stronghold

Banja Luka: A bomb exploded at the railway station in Banja Luka, headquarters of Bijana Plavsic, the Western-backed Bosnian Serb President, killing one person and seriously injuring another, police said.

Nato at the same time authorised its Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in Bosnia to use force to silence those parts of the media which incite hardliners to use violence. Javier Solana, the Nato chief, said. The decision came a day after Bosnian Serbs in northern Bosnia attacked Nato troops and UN police in response to a call for violence by radio and television. "Sfor will not hesitate to take the necessary measures, including the use of force, against programmes inciting attacks on Sfor or other organisations," Solana said.

In Belgrade, the United Nations began counting the cost of the mob violence. Thirty of its patrol vehicles were overturned and between 65 and 70 demolished or vandalised, leaving the bill for vehicles alone near to £1 million. Some engines were removed.

As the UN and Sfor licked their wounds, Radovan Karadzic strengthened his grip on the alienated population in eastern Bosnia. In Doboj, the most westerly town where Dr Karadzic and his Pale government still hold sway, a bomb demolished the offices of *Alternativa*, the opposition newspaper, and another was found at the headquarters of the Socialist Party.

Journalists at *Alternativa* were too afraid to give details over their bugged telephones, but control of the former railway junction clearly rests with Dr Karadzic's police.

Albright on peace mission

Washington: Madeleine Albright, right, will make her first trip to the Middle East next month to demonstrate America's commitment to peace in the region (Brown: Maddox writes). The US Secretary of State's visit is expected to begin in Israel on September 9, and include Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia. She will reiterate her wish for the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks to be resumed on an accelerated timetable, and will also meet Yasser Arafat.



98 die in Algeria massacre

Paris: Islamic rebels murdered 98 civilians in three villages south of Algiers on Thursday night, bringing the death toll for this week alone to more than 300 people (Ben Macintyre writes). The latest massacre took place at Sidi Moussa and two neighbouring hamlets in the province of Blida, about 30 miles from the capital. Algerian government officials said. Most of the dead were women and children. Another 120 villagers were wounded in the attack, according to officials in Algiers who confirmed the largest single act of slaughter in Algeria for more than a year. The killings came a day after a bomb near a mosque in the Algiers Casbah killed eight people and wounded more than 50.

Mitsubishi settles sex case

New York: Mitsubishi, the Japanese carmaker, has agreed out of court to pay \$9.5 million (£5.9 million) to 27 female workers who had sued for sexual discrimination and harassment (Tunika Varadarajan writes). The women, employed in Mitsubishi's plant at Normal, Illinois, launched their action in 1994, alleging that they had been abused and groped and passed over for promotion by male managers. Mitsubishi denies that the payment is an admission of wrongdoing. The company also promised to contribute \$100,000 to "women's causes" in the area.

Russia tunes in to Soviet past

Moscow: A new television channel dedicated to Russian-made programmes is to be launched in November. President Yeltsin said (Richard Beeson writes). "Kultura" will show Soviet-era films, plays, concerts and documentaries. "The yearning for spirituality is an age-old feature of the Russian national character," he said. There has been a growing backlash in Russia against American soap operas such as *Dallas* and *Santa Barbara* and the sex and violence in Hollywood action films.

Court backs return of skull



A delegation of Aboriginal elders is expected to collect the skull of Yagan, left, from Liverpool tomorrow. The 19th century warrior's head was exhumed from a Liverpool grave earlier this month, but its return had been blocked by Corrie Bodney, a tribal elder. A Western Australian court yesterday said the delegation could go ahead, but must consult Mr Bodney, who had objected to their trip because none of them were Yagan's descendants and their mission was sacrilegious.

Woman digs for victory

Prato: A woman won the job of gravedigger at a cemetery near Florence after all the male candidates failed. Rossana Giusti was the only candidate for a re-run of the practical test, exhuming a body, after ten men trying for the job all keeled over. The problems of the Chiesanuova cemetery in Prato had been compounded by a job advertisement error, which called for "necrophiliacs" instead of necrologists or gravediggers. (Reuters)

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Loose cannon turns fire on art world

ROME FILE
by RICHARD OWEN



WHEN vandals damaged Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona last week by breaking off the tail of a sea monster, the Italian media instinctively turned to one man for an informed and acerbic comment: Professor Federico Zeri, Italy's leading art critic and historian.

Professor Zeri observed caustically that the only way to protect publicly displayed works of art such as fountains and sculptures was to "bring in the army" to guard Italy's treasures night and day. The remark caused almost as much uproar as the vandalism itself.

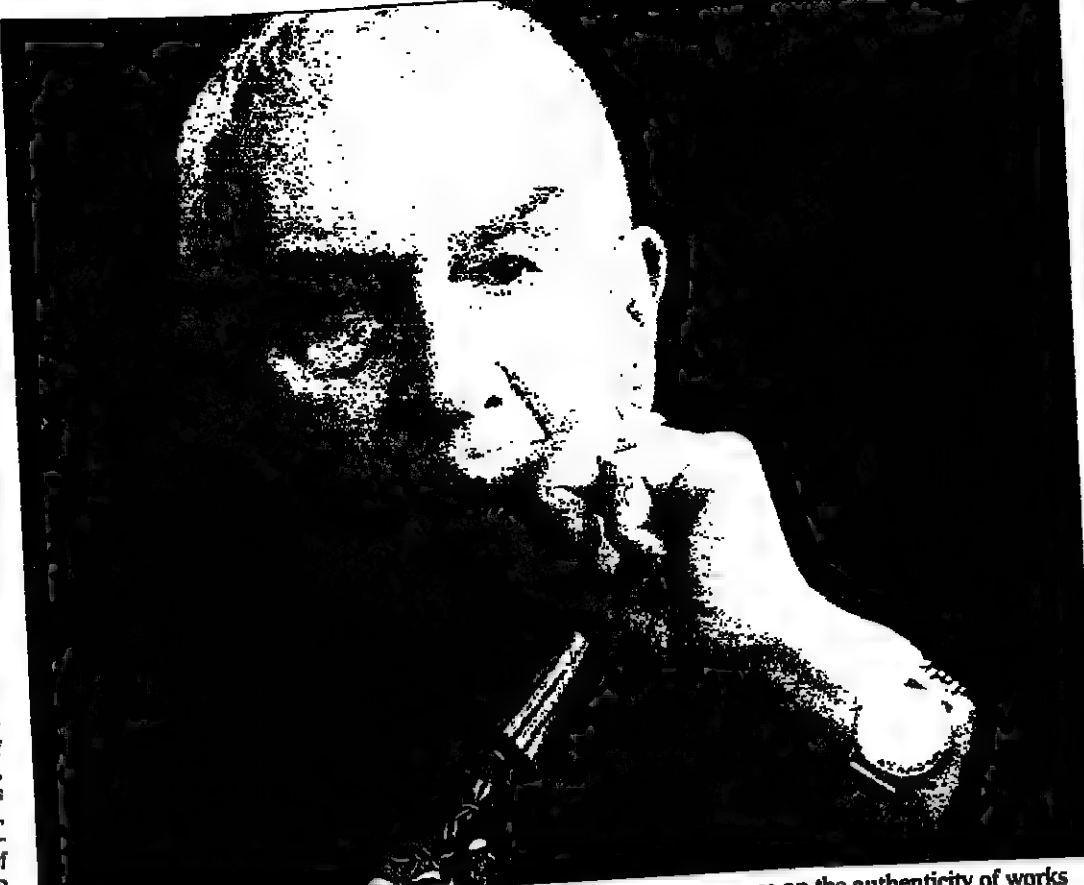
Professor Zeri has always been a loose cannon in the art world — or

in *La Repubblica's* phrase, *un cane sciolto* (a dog off the leash). He is invariably photographed in a pose of grumpy outrage, cigar clamped between teeth or fingers. Earlier this year he was made a member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris. But he has received no such honours in his own country, and holds no university chair. Asked why, he replies: "Because I have always told the truth in a country in which human relations are based

on hypocrisy and ambiguity. The only people who count in Italy are those who set out to harm others, and I want no part of such power." The universities, he said, are a "cultural desert" of corruption and favouritism. Yet even without an academic base, at 76, Professor Zeri is Italy's foremost authority on the fine arts. Admirers describe his knowledge of Italian art in the 15th and 16th centuries as "profound". He made his mark in the 1950s when he catalogued the collections of the Spada and Pallavicini families.

He has since published many acclaimed works on the history of art, and writes for *La Stampa*. He is Italy's best known "art detective", and is regularly asked to pronounce on the authenticity of works. It was Professor Zeri who discovered that sculpted heads fished out of the Arno River in Florence, and said to be by Michelangelo, were forgeries made by students using a Black & Decker drill. More recently he declared that frescoes in Assisi, long said to be by Giotto di Bondone, were by his lesser-known mentor, Cavallini. Detection fascinates him; and he has published a detective novel of his own, set in the art world.

From his library at Mentana, near Rome, which contains 80,000 volumes on art, Professor Zeri



Professor Zeri, Italy's "art detective", is regularly asked to pronounce on the authenticity of works

castigates the authorities at every opportunity for their mismanagement of Italy's vast artistic legacy. Rome's antiquities, he said this week, have been damaged over the centuries by fire, barbarian invasion and plunder, and are now threatened by neglect. "We are simply not capable of conserving our treasures," he thundered, blaming lack of resources for the fact that monuments and art ob-

jects are eaten away by pollution or left prey to vandals and thieves. The real scandal, Professor Zeri maintains, is not so much the damage to the tail of Bernini's sea monster — which had been broken before, and repaired — as the chronic disappearance or mutilation of scores of hundreds of elegant statues that once decorated Rome's great villas and parks.

He is unimpressed by cultural

heritage groups such as Italia Nostra — "a bunch of middle-class amateurs" — or by the efforts of Italy's centre-left Government to promote the arts. The Left, he says, merely expresses "the vainglorious aspirations of the petty bourgeoisie", while the former Communist intellectuals, at the heart of Italy's new establishment, are "frivolous impostors... weathercocks who go whichever way the wind blows".

Spoke in Prodi's bike plan

PROFESSOR Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, is a keen cyclist, and is often photographed on his bike in his home town of Bologna, complete with helmet and cycling jersey. But he may have made a mistake in trying to persuade his countrymen to get on their bikes as well.

Perhaps inspired by the last European Union summit in Amsterdam, when all EU leaders were given bicycles to ride, Signor Prodi this week announced tax incentives for bicycle manufacturers and outlined a plan under which all Italian regions are to build more cycle paths.

But unlike the Dutch, the Italians have never had a love affair with the bike. There is only one cycle path in Rome, where the famous Seven Hills tend to discourage anything so energetic as cycling.

Moreover, the Government's plan has upset a powerful lobby: the bike expansion scheme is to be paid for not only by a rise in the price of petrol but also by an increase in road tax on scooters and motorbikes. This is a dangerous move: while Italians may not much like pedalling, they must certainly do have a romantic attachment to the Vespa, which has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Signor Prodi is said to be having second thoughts.

Olympic embarrassment

ITALIAN newspapers are running daily countdowns to the International Olympic Committee's decision on Friday on whether Rome is to be the site of the Olympic Games in 2004, or whether the prize will go to one of the other candidates, such as Athens, Cape Town or Stockholm.

In the meantime, *Il Messaggero*, the Rome daily, has drawn the Rome city authorities' attention to a potential embarrassment they may have overlooked: the site of Rome's Olympic stadium, the Foro Italico near the Tiber, is dominated by Fascist-era statues

of heroically muscular athletes and a Carrara marble obelisk dedicated to Benito Mussolini, the Fascist dictator.

The obelisk, with the words "Mussolini Dux" carved down its length, is one of the few remaining memorials to the Duce, who opened the sports centre in 1932 as a "symbol of youth, strength and beauty". Under the headline "But Mussolini doesn't live here any more", the paper suggested that if Rome does win, it might be best to dismantle the obelisk for the duration of the Games.

Far-right Mayor enlists aid of 'praetorian guard'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Bruno Mégret and his wife, Catherine, Vitrolles Mayor

THE National Front Mayor of Vitrolles in the South of France has been accused of fomenting tension by trying to turn the local police force into a personal "praetorian guard" for her party.

This week Catherine Mégret, wife of the National Front deputy leader Bruno Mégret and winner of the mayoral election in Vitrolles earlier this year, announced plans to double the municipal police force, claiming that the national police were failing to protect citizens in the racially-divided town.

Under French law, municipal police are under the Mayor's direct control, while the national police are organised from Paris. Mme Mégret said

the municipal force would be increased from 36 to 70 officers, only marginally smaller than the national police force in Vitrolles.

"The National Front wants a police force it can give orders to," Jean-Claude Delage, regional leader of the Alliance political union, said. Another police union, the SNPT, also attacked what it called "the recruitment of a veritable praetorian guard of 70 officers".

France has a long history of rivalry between police forces at the national and local levels, but open conflict broke out in Vitrolles earlier this month after a resident in one of the town's most troubled neighbourhoods opened fire on a

group of noisy youths. Mme Mégret appeared to take the side of the gunman, insisting that "rather than arrest victims of insecurity, the police should go after those responsible for it".

She accused the national police of failing to do their job. "Not content with failing to intervene to ensure respect for the peace and tranquillity of ordinary citizens, the national police have even suggested that our municipal police do not intervene," she said.

Residents opposed to the National Front say that animosity is already rife between the municipal police and residents of the town's housing estates, many of whom are North African. The National

Front municipal authorities recently cut financing for youth associations and opponents say the plans to boost the municipal police and to plant a 24-hour police post in the very middle of the most troubled neighbourhood is intended as a direct provocation.

"We are heading for some very, very serious problems. The youngsters have nothing to do thanks to the National Front," one local Front councillor said.

Last month Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, expressed concern over the ill-defined role of France's 15,000 municipal policemen, and pledged to bring in regulations setting precise limits on their authority.

Italian serial killer targets old women

BY RICHARD OWEN

FEARS that a serial killer who preys on elderly women in rural areas of southern Italy is still at large returned yesterday with the murder of an 84-year-old grandmother at Spinazola, near Bari.

There has been a spate of "granny killings" in Apulia (Fuglia) since April last year, when Celeste Madonna, 81, was murdered in her home at Lucera, in Foggia province. Nine further killings of elderly women have followed.

Police say that in four cases it is not clear whether there is a link. But six of the murders, including the latest, follow a pattern: the victims lived in

ground floor flats and the killer laid the bodies out neatly on their backs, placing a cross and in some cases a family photograph on the chest. The victims' throats were cut with a knife or screwdriver.

In the latest murder Angela Sansone, who had eight children and numerous grandchildren, was found in her ground floor flat in the rural community of 15,000 where she lived alone. Her skull had been smashed and her throat cut.

Police believe the murderer is a young man who gains entrance by using a position of trust. He may dress as a priest to fool his victims.

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City of masterpieces

IN ANOTHER adroit piece of Proms programme planning, the two concerts given by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Neville Marriner, on Wednesday and Thursday, both featured works associated with that city. In the first, all three works were first given in Leipzig: Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto was written for the orchestra's leader, Ferdinand David; Schubert's Ninth Symphony was first conducted by Mendelssohn in Leipzig, 11 years after the composer's death; and, a century and a half on, Hans Werner Henze's Second Sonata for Strings was first performed by the Gewandhaus Orchestra, for whom it was written, last November.

It was in fact a Bruckner performance by the orchestra that acted as a catalyst for Henze. Not that his piece — for all its richness of texture — sounds much like Bruckner, but its predominantly elegiac tone perhaps reflects Henze's awareness of the precarious nature of a great tradition.

The resonant Leipzig strings came into their own here, as they did in Schubert's Ninth, where they blended beautifully with rounded woodwind and burnished brass. Imprec-

cable as the execution was, it was sadly wasted on a non-existent interpretation. Hardly a phrase was shaped as though it meant anything, and each paragraph merged into the next without expressive punctuation. If the period instrument movement has taught us one thing, it is that

BBC PROMS

Leipzig Orch/
Marriner
Albert Hall/Radio 3

well-sculpted phrasing, incisive articulation and pungent instrumental colouring are vital to the lifeblood of such scores. Marriner's reading was bland, featureless and uneventful.

If there was more interest in the Mendelssohn Concerto, it was largely due to the solo playing of the young American Leila Josefowicz, a Marriner protégée. She phrased the opening subject broadly and with fine attention to nuance, but even more arresting was the drawn-out pianissimo with which she raised the curtain on the second subject.

Technical assurance one can mostly take for granted these days, but Josefowicz's personal stamp marked her out as a musician with something to say.

Thursday's programme maintained the Leipzig connection with Schumann's Piano Concerto and Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony*, both premiered in that city. As with Schubert the previous evening, one yearned for more expressive shaping of Mendelssohn's melodies, for a real spring in the step of the fast movements. Most of it seemed to go by on autopilot.

If the Schumann concerto was on a different level, it was due entirely to the inspiration of Alfred Brendel. To the solo part he brought all the sensibility and poetic eloquence that was lacking elsewhere. His ability to identify and exploit underlying harmonic tensions is unerring, enabling him to project an introspective view of the part, in which mere virtuosity plays a subsidiary role. With more characterful direction from the podium this might have been a performance to treasure.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Welcome home, stranger

JAZZ: For 20 years Salena Jones has wowed the Japanese; now she is back to stay. Clive Davis reports

Not so much a comeback, more a chance to become reacquainted with an old friend. When Salena Jones appears at the Queen Elizabeth Hall next Tuesday her band will open the proceedings with that venerable Rodgers and Hart number *Have You Met Miss Jones?* The song title hints at the ambiguous progress of the American expatriate's career over the past two decades.

In that time the Japanese, ardent connoisseurs of all things connected with jazz,

have heard rather more of her than audiences in Britain. That is not to say that Jones — who came to this country in the mid-1960s — has been a complete stranger to our stage in recent years; she has, after all, toured with the BBC Big Band and played a couple of cabaret residencies at Pizza On The Park.

But the Far East has had the better of things since her first visit to Japan in 1978. While she amassed a lucrative quota of bestselling recordings for the Japanese label JVC, there was silence at this end, at least as far as albums were concerned. Having started out here as a fixture of the jazz-cabaret circuit, Jones (like many other singers from her end of the musical spectrum) found openings growing scarcer. To many in the British music industry it was a case, as she laughingly admits, of "Salena who?"

"If you're not Celine Dion some of these people won't have heard of you," she says, sitting in her home in Buckinghamshire's stockbroker belt. "Unless you do a striptease in Leicester Square, they're not going to remember you. And even if you do that they'll be looking at something else three days later."

In Japan, as many a visiting performer has been happy to discover, they take their music more seriously. So much so that, at one point, Jones came close to uprooting herself from England and settling in Kobe. Fortunately for us, she decided against the move — although she is still about to start Japanese language classes at night school in preparation for her next trip East.

It Amazes Me, the eminent relaxed jazz album she recorded last year for HMV as a fundraiser for the Save the



East, West, Britain's best: Salena Jones is rediscovering her adopted "big little" country

Children Fund, was her first UK release in 18 years. All of a sudden the drought seems to be turning into a flood. It Amazes Me has been followed by two easy-listening collections — *Salena Jones On Broadway* and *Salena Jones In Hollywood* — made for producer John Yap's musical theatre label, TER. Better still, Jones's own company, Vine Gate Music, has also issued her elegant tribute to the Brazilian songwriter Antonio Carlos Jobim.

As its title suggests, *Salena Sings Jobim With The Jobins* boasts contributions by members of the composer's family band as well as the great boss, now pioneer himself — making one of his last studio sessions before his untimely death. A compilation of her past work with guitarist Ken-

ny Burrell and saxophonist Richie Cole is due out here in November, and Jones will play at the Café Royal's Green Room in October.

In her programme next week Irving Berlin will be rubbing shoulders with Oscar Hammerstein, Marvin Hamlisch and the Beatles. Jones's sultry voice has something of the velvet warmth of her idol Sarah Vaughan, though she is more interested in understated storytelling than the coloratura displays that became Vaughan's trademark.

Born in the same Virginia town as Ella Fitzgerald, Jones followed Fitzgerald's example by winning a talent competition at Harlem's Apollo Theatre. She eventually found herself moving in the same circles as Billy Eckstine and Lena Horne, but by 1964 her

sense of personal dissatisfaction was compounded by her despair at America's racial divisions. "By the time of the march on Washington I knew that with all these things happening around me, my voice wouldn't be heard. I needed to be somewhere else."

Europe beckoned. On a visit to a travel agent to choose a destination, she opted for pot luck, buying a one-way ticket to Madrid after sticking a pin in an atlas. A year later she moved on to London where, among other things, she soon settled into a long engagement at Ronnie Scott's. Thirty years later, she says, the time has come to rediscover the "big little country" that has become her adopted home.

Salena Jones is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-460 4242) on Tuesday Sept 2

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The words "you either hate it or you love it" are much overused. But in the case of Classic FM, no lesser cliché will do. Classic FM polarises opinions in the same way that abortion, the Garrick Club, the garden gnome or theme pubs do. We are not really talking here about a radio station, or a bright new way of popularising classical music. This thing is bigger than that. It is more a way of life — a quintessential slice of middle-aged, middle-brow, middle-class, Middle England.

Playing classical music on the radio is, in a sense, no more the *raison d'être* of Classic FM than tea-drinking is the *raison d'être* of a Buckingham Palace garden party, or knocking little balls into holes is the *raison d'être* of your average golf club. The real point is social and aspirational. Tune into Classic FM, and you tune into a very reassuring world, as comforting and comfortable as a cardigan.

The Classic FM ethos is, depending on your taste, genteel or wet, humorous or twee, welcoming

A classic case of listener satisfaction

or cloying, unpretentious or philistine. It is entirely characteristic of the station that, when it decided to poach some stalwart BBC personalities, it went straight to Richard Baker and the *Gardeners' Question Time* panel. And that when it held a "favourite poem week" its listeners voted Wordsworth's *Daffodils* and Kipling's *If* first and second. Classic FM's current programme director, Steve Orchard, recently defined his typical listener's idea of bliss as "an extra long bath with a glass of champagne, and Classic FM in the background". That says it all. As we agreed earlier, you either hate Classic FM or you love it.

But five million people, according to the latest ratings, do love it. And as Classic FM prepares to celebrate its fifth birthday next weekend, even the snottiest music critics are forced to admit, through

gritted dentures, that it has been one of the world's great broadcasting success stories. It attracted four million listeners within four months of its launch. It has spawned a music magazine and two record labels. It has cloned itself into identical stations across the world; yet another subsidiary, Classic FM Johannesburg, is launched this Monday.

It single-handedly created the most unlikely smash-hit album of the Nineties: the funeral Third Symphony by the modern Polish composer Henryk Gorecki. It supplies all the classical insight music for BA. It has made several small but cleverly publicised forays into music education, the most recent being a £3 million partnership to set up an academy for outstanding young musicians in Surrey. And its shareholders are getting rich, finally. The station turned in a £4



RICHARD MORRISON

million loss in 1996, but was bought for £71 million by the local radio group GWR last December, smartened up, and has already moved into profit.

Finally, as the only non-BBC

national commercial radio station, Classic FM has spearheaded the extraordinary advance in commercial radio, which now attracts an annual £318 million of advertising and more than 50 per cent of the total radio audience. Classic FM has blown great holes in the confidence of the people running not only Radio 3, but Radios 2 and 4 as well — which accounts for the panicky tampering with schedules at the BBC this summer.

So why do so many people, particularly in the classical music business, resent Classic FM's success? The answer must be that it is the wrong kind of success. The expectation was that if Classic FM succeeded, it would draw many millions of people into a new enjoyment of serious music, and lead them onwards into the concert hall and the opera house.

Well, Classic FM has succeeded, but audiences for classical concerts have never been worse. Nor have sales of serious new classical CDs. The "leading onward" bit has simply not happened. The converts seem to remain trapped in Classic FM's entertaining but unchallenging world — and if they do buy a classical CD they plump for more of the same: a compilation of snippets, rather than an entire work. Indeed, there is some feeling that Classic FM has actually contributed to the decline of the serious concert music-lovers who previously were prepared to concentrate through a long symphony the notion that great music is there to be enjoyed — and enjoyed by anybody. And that crucial message is something that our more highbrow musical organisations sometimes seem to overlook.

The American nightmare

California is California because someone tilted the North American continent, and every nut, every creep with a screw loose slid there. So says one of the saner characters in David Rabe's play, a go-go dancer and good-time girl who has just been pushed out of a moving car by a paranoid who has mistaken her smile for a slur on his embattled manhood. On the evidence of the sophisticated retards, emotional drifters and coke-snorting misogynists who share her Hollywood habitat, she seriously understates the case.

Almost everyone admired Rabe's venomous comedy when it opened at the Old Vic last March. Wilson Milam's partly recast production — Jenny Seagrove energetically substituting for Elizabeth McGovern as an inwardly troubled fashion photographer, and podgy Mark Bennon replacing skinny Stephen Dillane as a harried screenwriter — seems almost stronger. Stay away if you are repelled by chaotic people feverishly exchanging a mixture of menacing four-letter, bile and pompous psychobabble and ponderous sociodrive. Go to

THEATRE

Harry Potter
Dennis

ban in his violence and frustrated rage, yet is well aware of his own awful inadequacy. Eddie is a more complex being, but a sweaty, restless Graves produces all the ugly self-absorption, casual malice, manipulative self-aggrandisement and ontological unease required of him.

If there is something slightly specious about the passages in which Eddie laments cocaine layers and neutron bombs, it is not his fault, but that of an author trying too hard to suggest he is the victim of our confused, godless world. When Graves has to accept a sexual "care package" in the form of a homeless girl a friend has found in an elevator, or inform the woman Phil has lured from her car that her tactlessness is to blame for her injuries, or turn on Phil and tell him he will never be more than macho background "to make movie bullshit look real" — well, he has a bite that nobody who thinks of him as a Merchant-Ivory hero will believe. Be warned, or be glad, or both: he and the play will leave toothmarks on your mind.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



California looks: new cast member Jenny Seagrove is Darlene, a fashion photographer; Rupert Graves is Eddie, the casually malicious casting director

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: A vividly impressive rendition of Wagner, and a noisy, revelatory production of Chekhov

ANY disappointment at Bryn Terfel's withdrawal from Thursday's concert of the third act of *Die Walküre* soon evaporated: we may have been deprived of a first taste of the next generation's Wotan, but we had this generation's John Tomlinson on absolutely top form and a fresh, consistently exciting account of the music under Antonio Pappano.

Not that Tomlinson, hot from duties at Bayreuth, would recognise the term "concert performance": he lived the role just as vividly as he does on stage. His rage at the truculent Valkyries was so incandescent that his mopping his brow with a hankie in the aftermath was perfectly understandable. And we had the best of both worlds in that, without the distraction of a stage production, he was able

Raging climax to a high-speed ride

OPERA
Die Walküre
Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau

to sing with more light and shade and more subtlety of phrase than is always the case in the theatre.

Jane Eaglen (Brünnhilde) was on equally impressive form, her tone wonderfully solid and even. Even more satisfying than such rock-solid singing *qua* singing are the insights she brings to the role,

and the genuine feeling for words and their meaning. The whole *War* is so *schmählich* passage was delivered with touching eloquence, and her christening of the unborn Siegfried on a perfectly poised, soft high A flat was a moment to treasure. Adrienne Piezonka was the radiant and steady Sieglinde, and there was a notably spirited team of Valkyries led by Cara O'Sullivan and Alwyn Mellor.

Pappano is best known here for the Italian repertory but, as the interview in Thursday's *Times* reminded us, he has

been well and truly blooded at Bayreuth. The only Italianate aspect of the performance was an easy lyrical flow — at around 70 minutes this was a pretty brisk reading — and a welcome warmth in his treatment of the tunes.

But he also understands that secret of conducting Wagner: evenness of overall pulse. He thinks in long paragraphs and forges the links between them unobtrusively — all this without skipping on the big moments.

Sieglinde's final outburst, Wotan's chromatic approach and the climax of the father-daughter duet blew us out of our seats. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra gave a big but not particularly disciplined account of the score.

RODNEY MILNES

Hammering home new truths

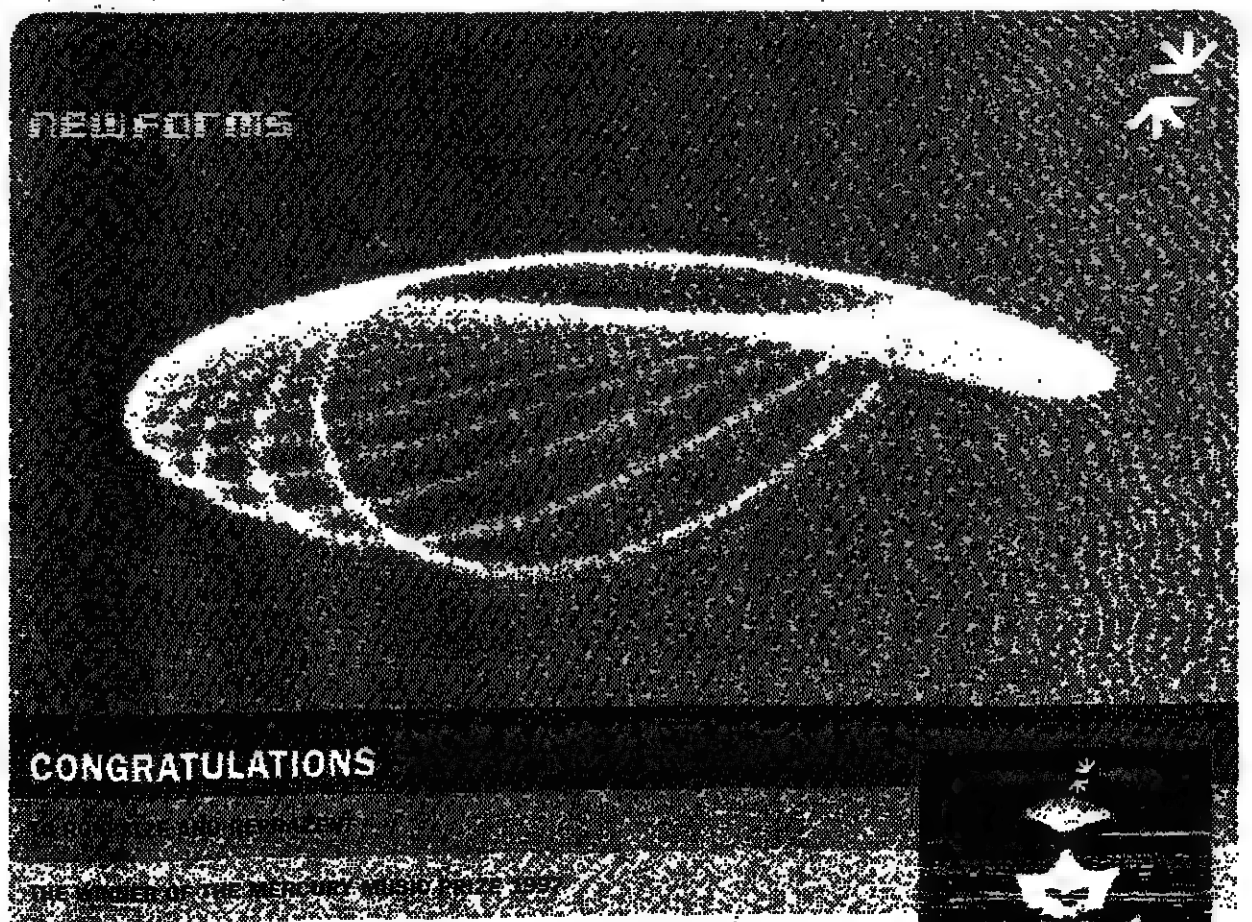
THEATRE
The Cherry Orchard
Festival Theatre

lives lived with equivalent detail just out of view.

Talking of which, the curtains of the nursery are drawn against the view in the first act. Characters part them slightly and peep through, describing the orchard beyond. Eventually the curtains are drawn and, although there are fewer cherry trees than we have a right to expect, the beauty of the massed white blossoms helps to explain why the feckless Ranyevskaya and her brother refuse to consider chopping them down.

Junia Lampe's Ranyevskaya, a beauty in purple and sable when she arrives, soon shows the hopeless superficiality of the woman. Capable of pain, tears and so on, but the vanished orchard would have become just another ingredient for the irritations of self-pity. Because Stein begins actions some time before the accompanying words, he shows how Charlotta's performance with a pretend baby, which afterwards she throws away, precisely comments upon Ranyevskaya's actual behaviour with her daughter. I had never twigged this before, and for such revelations even the cacophonous hammering is worth enduring.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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Good news for NatWest savers

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 1 September 1997:

Savings			
	Gross Rate per annum (%)	Gross C.A.R. (%)	Net Rate per annum (%)
Millennium Bond Two year term - interest paid annually £2,000 - £250,000	7.20	7.20	5.76
TESSA Reserve Tax Free Savings - No Minimum Balance	7.00	7.19	N/A
Crown Reserve 3 Month Notice - interest paid quarterly £250,000 + £100,000 - £249,999 £50,000 - £99,999 Below £50,000, zero rates are the same as the Diamond Reserve	6.60 6.45 6.15	6.77 6.61 6.29	5.28 5.16 4.92
Diamond Reserve 1 Month Notice - interest paid monthly £100,000 + £50,000 - £99,999 £25,000 - £49,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £2,000 - £9,999	6.30 6.00 5.25 4.75 4.20	6.49 6.17 5.38 4.85 4.28	5.04 4.80 4.20 3.80 3.36
Reward Reserve Instant Access - bonus interest paid quarterly £10,000 + £2,000 - £9,999	6.10 5.85	6.17 5.91	4.68 4.68
Premium Reserve Instant Access - interest paid quarterly £50,000 + £25,000 - £49,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £2,000 - £9,999	4.80 4.70 4.35 4.10	4.89 4.78 4.42 4.16	3.84 3.76 3.48 3.28
First Reserve Instant Access - interest paid quarterly £1,000 + £500 - £999 £250 - £499 £100 - £249 £1 - £99	3.60 3.35 2.25 2.10 2.00	3.65 3.39 2.27 2.12 2.02	2.88 2.68 1.80 1.68 1.60

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged.

Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from interest credited to post which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers. Otherwise the example subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax.

The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the rate which gross interest payments are reinvested in the account during the year.

The Net Rate is the rate paid after the deduction of lower rate Income tax, currently at 20%.

The gross rate and the gross C.A.R. for the Reward Reserve account include quarterly interest rewards of 1.50% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.50% gross per annum. Quarterly interest rewards are payable provided the account balance does not fall below £2,000 and no more than one withdrawal is made in any quarter. Annual interest rewards are payable provided the account remains in credit and no more than three withdrawals are made in any year.

For details of other interest rates please ask at your local branch. All rates are subject to variation.

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In his first big political intervention since the election, John Major appeals to the Scots and Welsh to reject Labour's devolution plans

Say no to this doomed enterprise

In a few days' time, Scotland will decide whether it wants a parliament in Edinburgh and, if so, whether it should have tax-raising powers. A week later, Wales will decide whether it wants an assembly in Cardiff.

Absurdly, the Scots and Welsh will have to vote on this, the most significant constitutional issue for years, before Parliament has had a chance to debate and amend the required legislation. What if Parliament changes the legislation in a material way? Will there be a further referendum, as there should be? The answer is "no". The purpose of these referendums is to give the Government a blank cheque — which it will then use to stifle debate in Parliament.

I fear the Government will not take this constitutional legislation on the floor of the House of Commons, even though this has always happened in the past. It will pack the Commons committees with placemen and deny most Members of Parliament the right to contribute to debate on an issue that will change the face of our country. And it will point to the results of the referendums, if the Scots and Welsh vote "yes", to prevent MPs changing the legislation.

The Government has treated the House of Commons with contempt on several occasions since the

election: this, however, strikes me as the most serious. It is the Government of arrogance.

I hope the Scots and the Welsh will vote "no" in the referendums. I hope that for the sake of the United Kingdom as a whole, but also for Scotland and Wales: they have a lot to lose under the Government's proposals.

At present, every part of the United Kingdom does well out of the Union. Economically, the four countries of the Union benefit from a single market. Culturally, our lives have been enriched by our shared history and identity. Abroad, we get a stronger voice in organisations such as the European Union, G7, United Nations and Nato.

Nor does the Union prevent decisions being taken by the Scottish and Welsh people. As Prime Minister, I ensured that more and more power was devolved to individuals, local communities and the people who serve them — such as teachers and doctors. Ironically, Labour opposed all that.

The previous Conservative Government also expanded the role of

Scottish and Welsh MPs by increasing the powers of the Grand Committees. The Scottish Grand now has more say over purely Scottish Bills and its Welsh counterpart can do business in Welsh. Both can question members of the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister. The proposed Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly will not have the power to do that.

Labour says that devolution would promote the Union and give the Scots and Welsh more say over their own affairs. Whether it truly believes this I cannot say. I do know that devolution is more likely to break up the Union than promote it and that, in so far as it may offer the Scots and Welsh marginally more say over their own affairs in a few areas, this advantage is swamped by the disadvantages the advocates of devolution seek to hide.

Nor am I alone in believing that devolution would be the first step to breaking up our country: both the SNP and Plaid Cymru agree, which is why they are campaigning for a "yes" vote in the referendums. They want an independent Scotland and Wales and believe inde-

pendence would follow the conflict between England, Scotland and Wales that devolution will inevitably create.

Conflict would be greatest with Scotland, where devolution takes on its most potent form. First, and most seriously, there is the West Lothian Question. After devolution, English MPs would have no say on purely Scottish affairs. And yet Scottish MPs at Westminster would be allowed to vote on purely English issues. This is odd on two counts — Scottish MPs at Westminster would not be able to vote on many issues that affect their own constituents because they would be dealt with in the Scottish parliament. But they could vote on the same issues affecting the constituents of English MPs. This is a nonsense and totally unacceptable. English MPs, and their constituents, would not — and should not — tolerate this situation for long.

It has been suggested that Scottish MPs should not be allowed to vote on purely English issues. But suppose they were banned from voting on English matters. That would mean the governing party

could have a majority in the House of Commons on some issues, but not on others. It would be a recipe for chaos. Should, for example, a Government resign if beaten on an important issue upon which it was a minority? The Government has not even addressed these issues.

Secondly, public spending has traditionally been higher in Scotland and Wales than in England. The difference is quite significant: £871 per head more in Scotland and £609 per head more in Wales during 1995-96. The English accept that resources should be allocated according to need — and, for that reason, have been willing to help to provide essential services in Scotland and Wales. But as living standards have risen in Scotland over the past 20 years this transfer of resources has become progressively less defensible.

Now, under the devolution proposals, Scotland will have its own tax-raising powers. But if, as Labour claims, the Edinburgh parliament could cut income tax in Scotland by 3p in the pound then the case for ending the transfer of excessive resources to Scotland is

unanswerable. My constituents would not take kindly to, in effect, subsidising tax cuts in Scotland.

In practice, however, a Scottish parliament would not cut taxes. It would increase them, initially by the "tartan tax" of 3p in the pound, which would hit the low-paid especially hard. The average Scotsman would end up paying an extra £6 a week in income tax. Later, it would go up further. New parliaments increase taxes — all history shows us that.

Devolution would also have a devastating effect on business as Sir Bruce Patullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, has warned. His comments were echoed by Scottish Financial Enterprise, which represents the country's financial services industry. The extra tier of government would delay decisions and burden firms — it would create uncertainty and hence cut investment and cost jobs. As Scotland and Wales became uncompetitive, they would become once again the unemployment blackspots that Conservative Governments re-

moved over the past 15 years. So devolution would hurt business. It would hurt people. It would take power away from individuals and mean higher taxes for Scots. It would eventually lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom.

Nor would devolution truly give more powers to the Scottish and Welsh people. Only independence would do that and when the frustrations of the Government's ill-thought-out halfway house become apparent, independence is what will be demanded. What devolution does is create another layer of politicians and bureaucrats — who would increase red tape, put up taxes and take power away from individuals and the new unitary authorities. In practice, more power will be sucked up from local authorities than devolved from the House of Commons.

I write as an Englishman and for that reason many Scots may choose to turn a deaf ear to what I say. But as an Englishman I can see clearly how non-Scots will react to devolution and a Scottish tax-raising parliament.

I like and admire Scotland and the Scots. Their contribution to the United Kingdom has been immense. I do not wish to see them embark on this doomed enterprise. They face a fateful decision and I wish them the wisdom to vote "no".

Jeffrey Bernard is really unwell

The poet of alcohol and tobacco deserves to die with dignity

Jeffrey Bernard is seriously unwell. His "Low Life" column in *The Spectator* has run 21 years but did not appear this week. Previous ones written from his Middlesex Hospital bed have suggested that the end is near. Deciding to withdraw from kidney dialysis, he writes, like being a prisoner in front of a firing squad. The victim sees soldiers pull their triggers but must stand, "watching the bullets coming slowly towards him for three weeks or more".

Bernard's way of death is only public because he chooses to make it so. He has fashioned a career from the introspection of the saloon bar drunk. For two decades he has been a one-man gossip column about himself. A long-running play by Keith Waterhouse in 1989 celebrated his hangover. Jeffrey Bernard is unwell did for middle-class alcoholism what *Trainspotting* did for heroin. It made the awful seem commonplace. If art is a mirror of society, these portrayals of addiction are grotesque. Heroin is glorified by movies, fashion, make-up, and ministers sending M16 to the opium dens of the Orient. Addiction to alcohol is treated with endearment. Peter O'Toole delighted West End audiences by imitating Bernard, rolling across the stage decrying those who abused drunkenness. There is, he implied, a loveable addict in us all.

Smoking and drinking, to both of which Bernard has been in thrall since youth, have remained his stock in trade to the end. He has become the de Quincy of the bottle and the fig, deftly drawing readers into his Soho half-life. With its long-dead ghosts, for him hospital has plainly been hell, testing to destruction his mastery of self-pity. His last few columns have been close plays for another puff in the loo or another drink under the sheets.

Yet while his reminiscences of Soho life had risked becoming tedious, *Low Life* at the Middlesex has brought us back to reality with panache. Bernard's journalism is no longer that of self-abuse but of hospital-abuse. His rage is directed outwards. He throws down a gauntlet at those who dismiss him as nothing but a drunk. Soaks have rights, he cries, not least when their drink and tobacco taxes must have paid for their treatment and to spare.

Like a good columnist, Bernard is liberal in his hates. He now hates doctors. "I hear endlessly how sympathetic, understanding and compassionate they are," he protests, "and I don't believe a word of it." They seem immune to his cries of pain. He is prescribed 50 units of pethidine. A nurse refuses to give him more than 25 because "in her judgment" that is enough. How dare she be the judge of his pain? He turns to wondering what pain he would "judge enough" by way of retaliation.

After the pethidine comes the Chlorpromazine, again underprescribed by his "palliative care team", so that his home visits are spent in an agony of itching. Time was when his aches and pains were relieved with a few vodkas. Those on dialysis are not allowed alcohol, yet are restricted in their intake of painkillers. Bernard writes as a man who has surrendered his physical self to an authoritarian abstraction. His organs are no longer his to mess about. To do so would damage something far greater than a mortal body. It would spoil the handiwork of an esteemed profession. To him, the NHS has become an exercise in pre-emptive body-snatching.

There are battles over every pleasure. A friend in another ward is refused permission to drink a Guinness, the day before he dies of cancer. Everyone must eat pre-cooked "franchised" food under direction of a hospital dietician. Bernard cannot have a tomato and beetroot salad. Nor is he allowed a Chinese takeaway, since its potassium additives "might cause a heart attack". The tea is powdered and has him pouring with sweat.

Many hospital patients, including those with illnesses unrelated to smoking, are addicted to nicotine. For them a cigarette can make pain more bearable. At very least, nicotine is surely an allowable comfort to the terminally ill. Apparently not at the Middlesex. It is a "no-smoking" hospital and the dying must set an example to the living. For some patients this must be truly awful. Bernard's plea for a room for addicts to have the brief respite of a smoke is refused. "If a man can't take a Woodbine with him to his death," he wails, "then there is indeed a bit of hell on earth."

I do not know Jeffrey Bernard and carry no brief for his behaviour in hospital. He appears a near intolerable patient, a parody of the hypochondriac in *Doctor in the House*. Staff at the Middlesex must endure his complaints and then see themselves traded in *The Spectator*. In their place, some might be tempted to substitute strychnine for pethidine. Nor will Bernard elicit much public sympathy. Dialysis is expensive and is normally reserved for the otherwise healthy. He is lucky to have any reprieve.

however brief and however miserable he finds it. If a government demanded compulsory private insurance for all heavy smokers and drinkers, most people would say amen.

Yet death from any cause has become expensive. Smoking and drinking, I am told, are cost-effective to the NHS. Those who die young from lung cancer and renal failure make smaller lifetime claims on the health budget than those who live to old age. The latter require new hips, heart bypasses, drugs and geriatric care. The case against smoking on "health cost" grounds is simply wrong. Those who choose to die this way do the rest of us a favour.

Yet the force in Bernard's complaint is not the cost but the indignity. In his weekly rerun of Shaw's *Doctor's Dilemma*, he has accused medicine of treating his death as an exercise in professional arrogance. His final months have been not so much miserable and painful but in his view unnecessarily so. Intensive treatment may keep a patient alive for a while, but it has become a patient transformed

by drugs, imprisoned by hospital rules and damned by deprivation. His doctors will rightly say that patients have choices. Dialysis is not compulsory and the sick can make "living wills", legally restricting medicine's freedom to intervene in death. Bernard chose to extend his life by means of medicine. Despite having tried suicide before, he admitted when beginning dialysis that "death has lost its charm". Like Woody Allen, he decided rather late to seek immortality by not dying.

What shocked him, and shocks others in similar straits, are the humiliations inflicted on those who make this choice. To the able-bodied, a glass of Guinness or a cigarette may seem a trivial sacrifice in the cause of frontline medical discipline. To those dying in a strange bed, they can be the most demeaned murderers were once allowed such consolations.

Shaw was right. All professions are conspiracies against the laity. Anyone at the mercy



Jeffrey Bernard (left) argues with Peter O'Toole, who played the heavy-drinking columnist on the West End stage

of a lawyer, an architect or, for that matter, a journalist will know the meaning of professional capture. There is no escape without pain. With medicine there may be no escape, period. Spurred on by negligence lawyers, ambulance-chasing reporters, league tables and public hysteria over health scares, doctors have hijacked death. Social service staff find it near impossible to allow an old person's wish to die at home. They may be sued for neglect. "Died alone" is a shock headline to a newspaper. Who cares that it may have been the fondest wish of the dying?

The handling of death has been nationalised. The final experience of the human will is commandeered by an agency of the State, the NHS. To ram home its authority, hospitals impose their own rules and disciplines, in collusion not with patients but with the bureaucracy of medicine.

So good luck to Jeffrey Bernard. I hope he can restore dignity to his escape. I hope he plots his own end, draws his own map, and carries with him the consolations of his choosing.

work in order to endure the day. Nevertheless, officials report that windows have been opened and fans switched on full power to enable the odd sly gasper.

there is now genuine optimism that the *magnum opus* might finally be published next year.

Ever since he was forced out as leader in 1975, Sir Edward has been said to be writing his memoirs. There have been a number of false starts, culminating in him returning a £50,000 advance from Lord Weidenfeld. But friends say that with the Tory party enduring a period of soul-searching, the writer's block lifted and the Father of the House, who is 81, rumbled into action. "He has long sessions dictating to assistants," says a Heathcote. "It's tiring for him and pretty intense for them."

Meanwhile, the photographs of the Princess and Dodi are being brought to the world by a team of waterbike couriers who relay the paparazzi's films back to the shore. I am assured they are all wearing life jackets.

the Princess expressing our concern in the strongest terms.

Cliffhanger

AFTER more than two decades of waiting, the first chapters of Sir Edward Heath's memoirs will be seen by a publisher for the first time this weekend. The manuscript of an initial instalment was sent out to Hodder Headline yesterday and

BY the time Glenda Jackson arrives at work at the Department of Transport she has smoke coming out of her ears. Cigarettes are taboo in all but the odd specified cell at the ministry. Her boss, Gavin Strang, is particularly sensitive to smoke pollution which adds to the friction that already exists in their working relationship. Jackson has thus taken to puffing heroically for the duration of her car journey to

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Single-sex schools top the league tables. Averil Burgess explains

Girl power is no secret

To one who has for many years been arguing the merits of girls' schools, the examination league tables bring annual satisfaction. Nothing could more clearly show how successful single-sex schools are at educating girls than the tables published this week. But the results have been consistent since they first appeared. What is notable is that girls are now at the top in A levels as well as in GCSE.

Concern about girls' underachievement during the 1970s and 1980s was particularly focused on poor performance in maths and science. Now it has given way to worry about boys doing badly. What explanations can be offered for girls' academic dominance?

It was in the GCSE tables that girls' schools first had notable success. This year they won eight of the top ten places. It came as no surprise to those of us who have taught in girls' schools, but it seems to have astonished many. An explanation had to be sought, and was found, in the nature of the examination itself.

The change in examination methods which came with GCSE undoubtedly played to girls' strengths, and coursework particularly benefited those whose low self-confidence meant they did not do well under examination time-pressure. Many of the old generalisations hold. Girls are usually more effective at sustained effort, they do collaborate naturally, and their tendency to understate their achievements does provide a spur to hard work. But there is far more to it than this.

In the A-level tables published in *The Times* this year, girls' schools took six of the top ten places, with Winton and St Paul's Girls first and second. It looks as if the success established at GCSE is feeding through to A level, and the self-confidence of today's young women and their schools is justified by this and steadily increasing success in the employment market.

So marked and extraordinary is the dominance of single-sex schools in general, and girls' schools in particular, in examination league tables, that any government

with any sense would be mounting a campaign to increase their number.

Girls in girls' schools do so well because the expectations of all concerned with them promote success. Their parents, in their choice of school, have put academic satisfaction and personal confidence firmly on the agenda; the staff set high standards, based on years of experience of what heights girls can achieve; learning with other girls provides appropriate challenge, shared goals and the absence of distraction by boys at the most vulnerable time in a girl's development. I am not only thinking about academic results, either. Perhaps equally important is the great sense of confidence which comes with taking leadership responsibility and sharing in a rich extracurricular life.

Much of this might apply to boys too. All observations in the mixed classroom indicate that it is the boys who dominate, sometimes even impeding the work of girl students. Experiments in single-sex setting over the past 20 years have been helpful to girls, especially in mathematics. The present concern about boys' achievements has led some schools to try single-sex setting over a wider range of subjects. The benefit to boys too is becoming apparent, especially in English. The league tables provide evidence of the success of single-sex education for boys.

Many of the schools that top the league tables, whether boys' or girls', state or independent, are selective and could be expected to do well. But this is not the only or even the principal explanation. Among the independent girls' schools which come high in the table are many which are not particularly selective, either because of location, or because of high boarding fees make free selection difficult. Yet they achieve outstanding results. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that a crucial factor is single sex schooling. What about it, Mr Blunkett? The author is a former Headmistress of the independent girls' school, South Hampstead High School.

In hot water

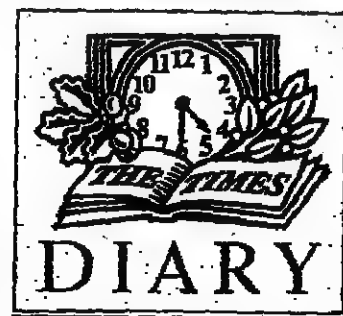
DIANA, Princess of Wales, has been branded "utterly irresponsible" and accused of setting a bad example to the young with her recent cavortings in the Mediterranean with Dodi Fayed. She is in deep trouble for not wearing a life-jacket while racing about on a jet ski.



Bad example: Di and Dodi

The Princess and Dodi, on their third cruise in little over a month, have been zipping about off Sardinia on a jet ski made for two. But while Dodi was pictured in a buoyancy aid, Diana was wearing just her swimsuit and a pair of ungainly flippers. In a week when there have been calls to regulate the use of jet skis after the second fatal accident this year, the Personal Watercraft Association has gone into overdrive.

"Going out on a personal watercraft without a lifejacket is utterly irresponsible," froths Graham Stuart, the organisation's president. "We are really glad that the Princess and her family are keen personal watercraft users, but she really ought to wear a buoyancy aid at all times, if not for her own safety then as an example to others. These machines can go quite fast and if you fell off you could knock yourself out or get cramp and be in real trouble. Practically all riders in Britain wear a lifejacket, even on a supervised lake. We shall write to



the Princess expressing our concern in the strongest terms."

Cliffhanger

AFTER more than two decades of waiting, the first chapters of Sir Edward Heath's memoirs will be seen by a publisher for the first time this weekend. The manuscript of an initial instalment was sent out to Hodder Headline yesterday and

there is now genuine optimism that the *magnum opus* might finally be published next year.

Ever since he was forced out as leader in 1975, Sir Edward has been said to be writing his memoirs. There have been a number of false starts, culminating in him returning a £50,000 advance from Lord Weidenfeld. But friends say that with the Tory party enduring a period of soul-searching, the writer's block lifted and the Father of the House, who is 81, rumbled into action. "He has long sessions dictating to assistants," says a Heathcote. "It's tiring for him and pretty intense for them."

Meanwhile, the photographs of the Princess and Dodi are being brought to the world by a team of waterbike couriers who relay the paparazzi's films back to the shore. I am assured they are all wearing life jackets.

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was pencilled in for the Los Angeles Opera next year, to be directed by Britain's John Schlesinger, who made the film *Midnight Cowboy*. Now, sadly, one third of the three tenors is apparently no longer to tackle the part. "The lead role is one of the hardest a tenor can take on," says an insider. "It was specifically written for Britten's lover and is quite idiosyncratic." Like the great man himself.

An eye opener

WHILE cinemagoers flock to see Robert Carlyle smoulder and strip as a steelworker in *The Full Monty*, the film has provoked some eye-watering material on the Internet. A colleague stumbled across an unofficial Web site for the film from Foresight Europe Ltd.

The site has been inundated with pictures of readers' husbands, apparently all taken at the climax of auditions for the raunchier male dance troupes. By all accounts it is grisly stuff. "The response has been excellent," says a stunned-sounding designer at Foresight. "It's a miracle that people actually choose to do this."



Bus stopped: Jilly Cooper

Bad news for Jilly Cooper's favourite riders. A bus service that the novelist launched from her home village has failed to attract enough passengers. The "Cheltenham Flyer" service from Biskay, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, to Cheltenham is to be axed on Monday. "It is so hard to get people out of their motor cars," says Jilly, who likes to get stuck into community issues.

P.H.S



BATTLE FOR BRITAIN

Devolution will change the whole United Kingdom

It is the biggest constitutional change in the United Kingdom for a generation and the people of England have scarcely spoken yet. Their quiet concerns should be heard now, for if they are not then they will find harsher expression, soon enough. Devolution for Scotland and Wales is, as John Major rightly notes on the opposite page, a matter of profound importance for all the citizens of what is still the United Kingdom. The appetite for greater autonomy in Scotland and Wales is real and durable, the argument for better democratic scrutiny of administrative powers already devolved is well made, but devolution is far more than a matter of new buildings for Edinburgh and Cardiff. It will profoundly alter the architecture that holds together the British State. The changes proposed presage a new battle for Britain.

The armies, and arguments, are already being marshalled. Next month the think-tank Demos will launch a pamphlet to ride the referendum wave, which attempts to grapple with the notion of "Britishness". The Demos pamphlet argues for a "re-branding" of Britain in line with the Prime Minister's professed desire to build a "young country". While an aversion to marketing jargon and high-falootin rhetoric is one defining mark of the British character, the packaging of the pamphlet should not obscure its content. It reiterates obvious truths. There are distinctive and contemporary British characteristics which owe something to the mongrel nature of the British State, and which make the United Kingdom more than the sum of its parts. The pamphlet identifies a particular global outlook, an innate adaptability, political maturity, creative energy and cultural pluralism as reasons for pride in Britain. The pamphlet is a welcome reproof to those who argue that the British nation state must shortly become one with Nineveh and Tyre.

It is in the interests of maintaining the integrity of the United Kingdom, Labour argues, that devolution is necessary. Not to accommodate Scotland's differences within the Union through a parliament would only encourage greater support for indepen-

dence. The argument has sincere, and impressive, advocates in politicians of the stature of Donald Dewar and George Robertson, but many of their colleagues within the Labour Party share neither their analysis nor their scruples. Nationalist rhetoric has been adopted by Labour politicians to attack Tory Governments. Measures were opposed not on the basis that they were ideologically wrong, but on the grounds that Scots had not voted for them.

The poll tax is a case in point. The legislation was flawed in conception and executed insensitively, but many in Labour attacked it not as a measure offensive to egalitarian principles but one specifically objectionable to Scottish sentiment. This appropriation of *Braveheart* rhetoric was accompanied by a fainthearted approach to the nationalist challenge. It led the Scottish Labour Party to base its devolutionary scheme on a document, *The Claim of Right*, which seeks to accommodate nationalist arguments rather than take them on.

The positions struck by Labour in the past, and adopted now as it campaigns shoulder-to-shoulder with the Scottish National Party, inevitably provoke concern among those, of all parties, committed to keeping the kingdom united. That concern, it now appears, extends well beyond Scotland. In a poll of English voters for BBC Radio Five Live released last night, 57 per cent of those polled feared that devolution would damage the United Kingdom as a whole.

English voters do not need to be aware of all the strains which might be placed on the Union, outlined by Mr Major opposite, to sense that those in the vanguard of this scheme are not those known for their love of the British State. Labour has yet to show how it will prevent its parliament becoming a separatist ramp. When elections are held for an Edinburgh assembly, in the depths of Labour's mid-term, the main beneficiaries may be the nationalists. Would Labour in Scotland ally with the Tories to deny the nationalists power? Mr Blair must give all these matters serious thought if the young country he wants to create is not to prove too — a lesser England and a smaller Scotland.

VALIANT FOR TRUTH

A Japanese professor's courageous courtroom battle

Saburo Ienaga, the author of more than 40 distinguished historical works, is a Japanese historian so eminent that in ordinary circumstances his long career would by now have been crowned with domestic honours. Instead, mention of his name in official circles has, for 32 years, evoked distaste and embarrassment. The reason is his long and lonely crusade against the censorship by the Education Ministry of his school textbook accounts of Japan's wartime record.

Yesterday this now frail 83-year-old, who has shrugged off both ostracism and previous legal defeats, won his final battle. Japan's Supreme Court ruled that the ministry had acted unlawfully in ordering him to delete from a textbook all reference to Unit 731 in China's Harbin province, where Japanese military doctors performed lethal and appallingly cruel bacterial warfare experiments on live prisoners. Despite a wealth of evidence from survivors and from guilt-stricken Japanese, the ministry had ruled that the camp's very existence was supported by "no credible academic research".

For Mr Ienaga, the Supreme Court decision is a personal triumph, but only a partial victory. The court rejected seven other claims and, by sitting as a "petty bench" of only five of its full complement of 15 judges, declared itself unable to rule on his central charge that state censorship of the content of textbooks violates academic freedoms guaranteed under Japan's postwar Constitution. For Japan, the very fact that his legal odyssey has been necessary is a wrong that has yet to be properly addressed.

Mr Ienaga's campaign dates back to 1965, when the ministry's "certification council" ordered him to delete or rewrite more than

400 passages in the *New History of Japan* it had commissioned from him. Among the offending passages which, 32 years later, the court ruled the textbook examiners to have been justified in censoring were his account of the notorious Nanjing atrocities by Japanese invading forces in 1937 and his use of words such as "raped" and "violated", to which the ministry objected on the ground that rape by soldiers was "a common occurrence in wartime". Happily, Mr Ienaga has had more success at the bar of public opinion than he has had in Japan's courts.

His courage and persistence have not only encouraged greater openness among teachers and academics in Japan, but have helped to make Japan's failure to face its past an issue throughout the region. An embarrassed Japanese Government has slowly revised Japanese textbooks, to give a more honest account of what happened. What was once described as Japan's "advance" into Asia is now termed "aggression", the Nanjing massacre is acknowledged and, this year, children are being taught, although in brief and euphemistic language, about the Asian "comfort women" who were forced to provide sex in Imperial Army brothels.

Each step has, however, been bitterly contested by Japanese conservatives, who protest that Japan's children should be taught a history they can be proud of and that the Government is supine in bowing to foreign protests. Japan's political debate continues to reflect the enduring schizophrenia about the recent past in Japanese society, at once so pacifist and so proud. Mr Ienaga believes passionately that truth is the best healer of these wounds. His stand embodies all that is most civilised in his ancient nation.

MAGNIFICENT PREDATORS

Russia's attempts to save Siberian tigers deserve world support

The tiger has prowled this planet for more than two million years but these magnificent predators may not survive another century. It is estimated that fewer than 5,000 now remain. Already three species — the Bali, Caspian and Javan — are extinct. The Siberian tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*, could soon be joining them unless the conservation programme newly announced by the Russian Government can succeed in effecting far-reaching changes.

The snowbound forests of the Primorsky and Khabarovsk regions in Russia's remote east provide the last habitat for the Siberian tiger. But since the end of the Soviet Union, weakened authority and economic decline in these bleak territories have encouraged poaching. There is a lucrative market for tiger products in China and Korea, where they are used for traditional medicines. Tigers' bones are believed to heal ulcers and their brains are thought to remedy laziness and acne. A tiger carcass can command up to £10,000 on the Asian black market — far more than an annual Russian salary.

Wealthy hunters from Moscow and further afield are prepared to pay handsomely to bag a big cat. Telescopic rifles in hand, they scour the Siberian snows in helicopters. It is the pleasure of the kill they

relish, but local mafia organisations control the cross-border trade in tiger carcasses — from Russian poacher via Russian customs officer to Chinese sellers and producers. For them this trade has become more profitable than peddling drugs. Bleak estimates suggest that some 70 animals are killed every year. Furthermore, the plunder of the tigers' habitat by logging companies — several of them illegal — threatens not only the cats but the fauna on which they prey.

In 1995 the Russian Government set up a Siberian tiger sanctuary, but did not have the budget to maintain it. Foreign donors such as the World Wildlife Fund for Nature were relied upon to finance anti-poaching brigades and monitoring units to track the whereabouts of animals by radio-collaring. Populations have since increased — slowly.

The Russian Government now takes a welcome step in offering fresh funds for the preservation of this glorious species. To many it has seemed glib that developed Western nations, no longer harbouring fierce predators in the wild, should clamour for the protection of such animals in other countries. Democratic Russia's decision to initiate its own conservation programme will be applauded across the world.

National concerns over devolution

From Mr D. E. Ridler

Sir, A just and democratic way to resolve the debate on independent parliaments for Scotland and Wales would be to renegotiate the 1707 Treaty of Union and put forward proposals for a new treaty for the Scots, Northern Irish, Welsh and the English, to approve or not.

So far it appears to have been assumed, even by English MPs, that the English will accept any condition of membership of the "Union" which the Celtic members may demand, no matter how disadvantaged the English may be as a result. This is not necessarily the case. The English doubtless have a view and it should be heard. Just as the present conditions of membership of the Union may not suit the Celts, the present Government's proposals may not suit the English.

It may be that the English will want independence. They should be given the same chance to express their views.

Yours sincerely,
D. E. RIDLER,
9 Moor Green, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire.
August 25.

From Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle

Sir, The cavalier dismissal by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, of the views of Sir Bruce Patullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, on the possible effect of tax increases by a Scottish parliament (report and leading article, August 23) appears to suggest that only professional politicians are qualified to express opinions on this very important matter. Such a suggestion is arrogant and unhelpful.

The electorate deserves to know what is involved before answering the second question in the referendum on tax-varying powers, and the views of someone with a lifelong experience of banking and business merit no less consideration than those of politicians lacking such experience.

Yours faithfully,
JAUNCEY OF TULLICHETTLE,
Tullichettle, Comrie, Perthshire.
August 26.

From Mr Robin Dyke

Sir, If we were to have a referendum on abortion, would we expect it to be limited to female voters? Or should the future of blood sports be decided solely by those who participate? I think not. So why are opinions on Scottish questions not sought from the rest of Great Britain?

As your survey today clearly shows, there are many non-Scots who hold views on the subject. Those who voted one way may earnestly wish to stay united with the Scots, those who voted the other way may just want to be shot of them, but some 84 per cent seemed to want to have a say.

Much the same presumably applies to issues concerning Wales, and for that matter Northern Ireland or even Cornwall.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DYKE,
Gore House,
Warborough, Oxfordshire.
robin_dyke@compuserve.com
August 29.

From Dr Tom Graves Smith

Sir, I am sure many English people, viewing events in Scotland with some anxiety, will agree with your position that *The Times* could only support Scottish devolution on the basis that it will strengthen the Union (leading article, August 23).

However, the doubtful issue as to whether or not Scottish devolution will indeed strengthen the Union is surely clarified when we consider that one of those in the best position to assess this, Mr Alex Salmond as Leader of the Scottish National Party, clearly thinks it will not.

Yours sincerely,
T. R. GRAVES SMITH,
25 Saxholm Way,
Southampton, Hampshire.
August 29.

Millennium Dome

From Mr A. P. Mason

Sir, We should cherish the Millennium Dome during its brief existence. Tacky, synthetic and impermanent, it is marvellously symbolic of much of today's Britain. The likelihood that most people are wholly uninterested in the millennium project — except for the gallant 95 per cent who, according to Jimmy Young, voted against it in a Radio 2 phone-in on August 22 — merely adds to the authenticity of the picture.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
133 Harestone Valley Road,
Caterham, Surrey.
August 23.

Chinese puzzle

From Ms Geraldine Johnson

Sir, My Stephen Straker (letter, August 29) should not despair about the puzzle of the composition of his Chinese sandals. If he searches his inner soul, he will find the answer.

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE JOHNSON,
Larchwood, Tye Close,
Saltdean, Brighton, East Sussex.
August 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Africa's future lies in its own hands

From the Director of Oxfam

Sir, Matthew Parris ("Out of Africa's horror", August 22; see also articles, August 8 and 15; letters, August 16 and 21) is right: "looking away" from the problems in Africa is "cruel". There has been too much looking away. But the kind of engagement he is suggesting — the recolonisation of parts of the continent — is not, and never was, the solution.

Africa has created many of its own problems through corruption and maladministration. But these have been compounded by international policies.

Many Africans would question whether colonialism ever ended. Following independence, a lot of countries, including Angola and Mozambique, became battlegrounds for a proxy war between East and West. The legacy of these wars continues throughout the continent, at the expense of African lives and livelihoods.

Since the 1970s, the IMF and the World Bank have imposed their economic solutions on numerous African countries. Enormous debt repayments and structural adjustment programmes have undermined basic services like health and education, without creating new growth. In Uganda, where one child in five dies before their fifth birthday, the Government spends \$3 a person on health, \$17 a person on debt repayments. Oxfam has consistently called for those debts to be written off. Africa has paid its debts many times over.

It is time the international community gave its backing to African solutions for Africa. For example, the Organisation of African Unity is working towards economic union in Africa by the year 2030. It is through regional economic integration that small landlocked countries such as Rwanda and Burundi can create viable national economies.

By supporting such initiatives and by removing trade barriers, rich coun-

tries not only help Africa towards genuine independence and prosperity, they also create a potential new marketplace for themselves.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BRYER,
Director,
Oxfam (United Kingdom
and Ireland),
274 Banbury Road, Oxford.
August 22.

From Mr Olu Fasan

Sir, For all his admittedly splendid analysis of Africa's problems, Mr Parris errs badly in failing to recognise the spirit of the African people and in discounting the determined efforts of their leaders to jettison the misguided policies of the past and embrace economic reforms, based on free enterprise. It is as if, in Mr Parris's cynical view, such efforts, coming from Africa, could only lead to a blind alley.

To hanker after the recolonisation of Africa, as Mr Parris seems to be doing, is an insult to all Africans and a blatant disregard for the principle of self-determination. To be sure, Africa has problems, not least bad leadership; but the solution lies not in the West taking over the continent as an administrator would an ailing company. Rather, it should be helping to promote good governance in Africa and to reduce corruption.

Is it not time to ask Swiss and other Western banks to name and shame African leaders who are hiding money in their banks which neither their salaries in office nor legitimate personal investments outside it could justify? Is it not time this money was returned to help develop Africa, or, if you like, pay off its debt?

Yours faithfully,
OLU FASAN
(Editor),
Marketfinder International,
272 Queens Road, SE14.
August 23.

Greenhouse gases

From Professor A. J. McMichael and Dr Mike Hulme

Sir, Without wishing to comment on the dispute between BP and Greenpeace (letters, August 25, 28), we would like to remind readers of the seriousness of the potential threat caused by our continued use of fossil fuels and the consequent accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The resulting environmental damage occurs both locally — as evidenced by the deterioration of air quality in UK cities in the past few weeks — and also globally.

As scientists studying the impacts of climate change, we consider that adverse effects on human populations are likely to result from changes in weather patterns, shifts in storm frequencies, rises in sea level, and the consequent spread of various pests and infectious diseases. A wide variety

of ecosystems throughout the world will be at increasing risk.

We have little idea whether or not human societies can cope with such adverse effects. Hence, the prudent course of action is to limit the source of the problem.

Major shifts in investment away from fossil fuels will therefore be required to make the necessary reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Large companies like BP seem to us to be well placed to take an active part in investing in these changes.

There is no doubt that precautionary preventative action is needed now.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. McMICHAEL,
MIKE HULME
(Climate Research Unit,
University of East Anglia),
London School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine,
University of London,
Keppel Street, WC1.

Sexism and cars

From Mrs Eunice Hinds

Sir, I agree with Mr David Mungall (letter, August 25) about the sexist assumptions in used-car adverts.

When I sold my Audi 80 I could have advertised "one lady owner" but thought it might not give an accurate impression of a car with 150,000 miles on the clock, which had travelled to the Czech Republic to organise a conference, done a daily 45 miles round-trip to my office, travelled to all corners of the British Isles with me on business, done the school run and been used to help my son learn to drive.

Then again, when my husband was selling his Rover, with 25,000 on the clock and only used locally to travel to work and do the shopping, "one gentleman owner" somehow did not seem to have the right connotations either.

Yours sincerely,
EUNICE HINDS,
321 Rayleigh Road,
Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.
August 25.

From Mrs Vivienne Apple

Sir, Having just traded in my one-lady-owner G-reg Metro for a one-lady-owner N-reg equivalent, I sus-

pect that political correctness is being used as some kind of red herring in your letters column.

Not only is the low mileage and pristine condition of my "new" car attractive, but it also guarantees that the lady owner, like me, didn't use it as an ego booster, mobile rubbish bin or a rollercoaster in which to bounce over sleeping policemen at 40mph.

Does this make me a sexist, or a realist?

Yours faithfully,
VIV APPLE,
38 Harrow Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham.
August 26.

From Mrs Linda Hiller

Sir, Some years ago, when part-exchanging my car, I suggested to the salesman that he advertise it as belonging to "one careful lady owner".

He replied that this was not possible as he would be in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act. I did not inquire if this alluded to "careful" or "lady". I still do not wish to know.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA HILLER,
239 HULLBRIDGE ROAD,
South Woodham Ferrers,
Chelmsford, Essex.
August 25.

Hindley campaign

From Mr Alan Pavelin

Sir, In discussing the case of Myra Hindley, Mr Gerald Long (letter, August 25) both misrepresents Catholic teaching on confession and absolution, and fails to distinguish God's forgiveness from that of society.

It is most certainly not the case that "the most abominable criminal can be washed clean of his crimes... by a brief ritual". The Catholic Church believes that a necessary condition of God's forgiveness is genuine repentance, which is a possibility for even the perpetrator of the most unspeakable wickedness. This does not necessarily mean that society should immediately release such a criminal, but nor does it mean that it should never do so.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PAVELIN,
172 Lessons Hill,
Chislehurst, Kent.
August 25.

From Mrs Allison Walker-Morecroft

Sir, For one who abhors the arrogance of Lord Longford's campaign on behalf of Myra Hindley, Mr Gerald Long exhibits a fair amount in his letter. The "tiny minority" he mentions is, in fact, the whole Christian Church. The most heinous crimes are forgiven in the light of true repentance, if we are to believe the words of Jesus: "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke xvii, 3).

Hindley's contrition, real or otherwise, is between her and Almighty God. Anyway, who decides who is a "lesser sinner"? Not Mr Long, surely.

Yours etc,
ALLISON WALKER-MORECROFT,
47 Colman Road, Norwich, Norfolk.
August 25.

Letters may be faxed to
0171-762-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Learning morality from classical

From Mr John N. Davie

Sir, Lesley Chamberlain is to be applauded for her article on the need for clear moral teaching in schools and for finding in Socrates the ideal teacher of ethics ("A moral victory for Socrates", August 25). We will never know how much Plato idealises Socrates in his dialogues, but it is hard not to be impressed by a man who, 400 years before Christ, is suffering injustice is preferable to committing it.

Much of classical literature is openly didactic, from Homer and the tragedians to Terence and Livy, illustrating how men and women should (and should not) live by the use of moral exemplars. If one accepts the human nature changes little over the centuries, there is much for today's young people to learn from the classical past in the sphere of morals, particularly during the early days of a Roman Republic.

Modern pupils may find it bizarre that a Roman general should have returned to his enemies in Carthage, facing a lingering death simply because he had given them his word; but does this do him no harm to ponder on it?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIE
(Head of Classics),
St Paul's School,
10 Kinnaird Avenue, W4.
August 25.

From Ms Marianne Talbot

Sir, I am wholly supportive of Lesley Chamberlain's wish to use the Socratic method to teach moral values to young people and I wish her luck.

However, as the consultant chair by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority with carrying forward the work of the National Forum Values in Education and the Community, I would like to put right an inaccuracy in her account of the forum work. There is no sense whatsoever in which the work is "paving the way for compulsory lessons" in morality. The SCAA's guidance on which forum's work is based is designed to help schools do their own thinking about how they wish to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, to stimulate ideas, trigger enthusiasm and disseminate good practice.

The forum's statement of values, from being relativist, demonstrates once and for all that however plural our society there are still values which we all subscribe to. This will provide immense encouragement to schools who, when recognising and celebrating the differences between us, do not want to lose sight of the common humanity that makes these differences, in every important sense, irrelevant.

Yours faithfully,
MARIANNE TALBOT,
Brasenose College, Oxford.
August 25.

Aitch through the net

From Mr Benjamin Levy

Sir, There is something fishy about the "Spell check" panel in your report today, headed "Master wordsmith fail spelling test". Is your spelling "ichthyological" without the first *l* a deliberate mistake, or is the whole article a cod?

Yours faithfully and orthographically,
BENJAMIN LEVY,
Enterprise Chambers,
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
August 29.

From Mr Francis Wood

Sir, Was today's spelling test a herring?

Yours etc,
FRANCIS WOOD,
1 Bartlemy Road,
Newbury, Berkshire.
August 29.

Spelling it out

From the Consultant Editor of *He Lines*

Sir, It is with great embarrassment that I note a glaring example of a spelling in the pages of the current issue of this magazine. I dictated to our printers over the telephone late story concerning a project involving, I was surprised to read subsequently, a first face and a second face. I feel somewhat phased by this experience.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK E. HARVEY,
Consultant Editor,
He Lines.

Streamline Fashion Publishing Ltd,
6-8 Vestry Street, N1.
August 29.

Heavenly measures

From Canon Arnold Nicholas

Sir, In a report today headed "Garden robbery for garden ornaments" you include the intriguing information that "one of Europe's largest cemeteries has lost six life-sized angels".

Just how big is a "life-sized angel"? Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD NICHOLAS,
19 Roman Way,
Fishbourne,
Chichester, West Sussex.
August 26.

Warning for surgeon who let daughter help him

هكذا من الأصل

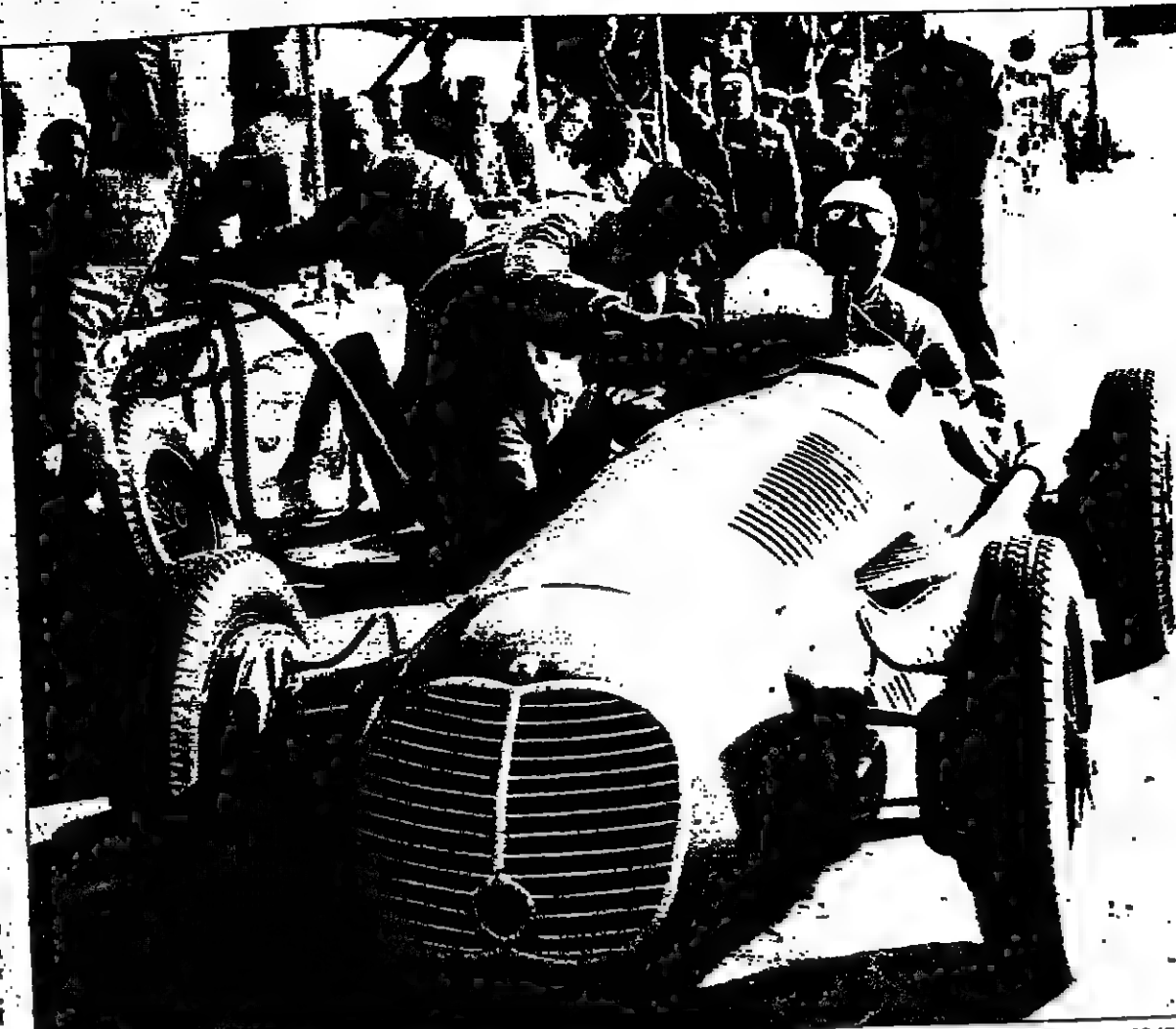
THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

OBITUARIES

LUIGI VILLORESI

Luigi Villorresi, Italian racing driver, died at Modena on August 24 aged 88. He was born in Milan on May 16, 1909.

With the death of "Gigi" Villorresi, Italy has lost one of its racing drivers whose career spanned the prewar and postwar years at the highest level of the sport. He began driving competitively in 1931 with a Fiat. But it was with a series of Maseratis, the marque to which he turned in 1936, that he quickly established a reputation as a dashing and highly versatile, if occasionally somewhat accident-prone, driver. By the following year, he had graduated to the Maserati Grand Prix team, and he became Italian champion in the 1.5-litre class in both 1938 and 1939. But the latter year brought personal tragedy with the death in an accident at Monza of his brother Emilio, whose racing career had been so closely intertwined with his own, even though by then they were driving for rival teams. A prisoner of war of the Allies during the Second World War, Villorresi returned to the racetracks in 1946. Still driving Maseratis, he was soon recording victories in Grand Prix races across Europe at Nice, Strasbourg, Nimes and in Alsace and Luxembourg. He also ventured across the Atlantic to take part in the famous Indianapolis 500 race, in which he finished seventh, and in both 1947 and 1948 he dominated a series of races in Argentina, winning the Peron Cup in both years. Back in Europe, he continued to build his busy competition schedule around Formula One, Formula Two and



Luigi Villorresi gains valuable seconds during a pitstop in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1948

sportscar racing. He underpinned his reputation for speed with a growing maturity and recorded many victories against formidable opposition. In the first Grand Prix to be held at Silverstone, in 1948, he finished ahead of his close friend Alberto Ascari, who was by then his Maserati team-mate. By 1950, the inaugural year of the FIA World Championship, the two had joined the Ferrari team, where Villorresi comfortably slipped into the role of elder-statesman driver — someone who was still

competitive, yet who went out of his way to offer the benefit of his wealth of experience to his younger and by now significantly quicker team-mate. In 1951 Villorresi scored three third places in world championship Grands Prix in Britain, Belgium and France to

finish the season fifth in the championship table, while Ascari was narrowly beaten by Juan Manuel Fangio to the world title. Although a lean 1952 season, which brought just two third places, gave Villorresi only a modest seventh place in the Formula One

points table, he was overjoyed that his protégé Ascari had become world champion that year, an achievement the latter would repeat in 1953.

This was also to be Villorresi's best postwar season. Twice he started from the front row of the grid and twice — in Argentina and Belgium — he finished a Grand Prix in second place behind his team-mate. He was also third in the Italian Grand Prix and finished the season in fifth place in the world championship table.

Not that Villorresi had lost the knack of winning races, certainly not in sportscars at any rate. In 1953 he won both the Giro de Sicilia (Tour of Sicily) and the Monza Grand Prix for sportscars, and in 1954, having changed teams to Lancia, he won the Oporto GP for sportscars. But in 1955, personal tragedy struck him again when his great friend Ascari was killed while testing a Ferrari sportscar at Monza.

By now Villorresi's own racing career was in decline, and after a severe accident in Italy, when he suffered a badly broken leg, he was encouraged to bring his racing career to a close. However, as a fitting swansong to a remarkable quarter-century of motorsport, he took part in the 1953 Acropolis rally in a Lancia and won the event outright.

Thereafter, for many years he remained a familiar figure at major racing events in Italy and elsewhere in Europe. He was invariably greeted with warmth both by his surviving contemporaries and by the younger generation of drivers to whom his name remains an indelible part of Italian motor racing history.

He did not marry, and in his old age was cared for in a local monastery at Modena.

DAME BERYL PASTON BROWN

Beryl Paston Brown, DBE, educationist, died on July 25 aged 88. She was born on March 7, 1909.

HAVING taken a first in English and later taught at her old Cambridge college, Beryl Paston Brown could have made a wholly academic career for herself, but instead she devoted much of her life to the training of teachers.

After taking her degree, and a Teacher's Diploma from London, she accepted a lectureship at Portsmouth College of Education in 1933, before moving in 1937 to a more senior post at Goldsmiths College, London, where she remained during the war.

In 1944 she moved to Newnham for two years, but in 1946 she returned to Goldsmiths, at a time when much new thinking and planning were being devoted to the education and training of teachers. This, she was convinced, was the aspect of education most urgently in need of rebuilding.

Paston Brown very soon became actively involved in a new professional body, the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education, and became the first editor of its journal, *Education for Teachers*. None of her friends was surprised when she was appointed to be Principal of the new City of Leicester College of Education in 1952; nor in 1961 when she was appointed Principal of Homerton College (of Education), Cambridge.

In 1963 she sat on the Newsum committee, which produced the report *Half Our Future*, which recommended that the school-leaving age be raised from 15 to 16. As a socialist, she believed in educational equality, and was concerned with provision for the least able children. Secondary modern schools should, she urged, be allocated a fair share of educational spending, and employ the best possible teachers. In later years she was disappointed that children with less ability were never given adequate priority, though encouraged to find the profession had become almost entirely a graduate preserve.

As part of the 1965 Weaver study group on the way colleges of education were governed, her understanding of collegiate organisation and her capacity for defusing possible disputes made a significant contribution. In 1965 she was elected to chair the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education, and in 1967 she was appointed DBE. In her last few years at Homerton, much of her time was spent in informal explorations with senior Cambridge figures on the future relationship between Homerton and the university, and links were strengthened as a result.

She was always warm and responsive to others, and wore her considerable learning lightly. She listened intently to what others were saying, and had a ready sense of humour. In 1971 she retired to her house at Lewes. Here she was soon as active as ever, as a tutor for the Open University (which awarded her an honorary degree), as a regular visitor to the Aldeburgh Festival and to Glyndebourne; and on the committees of public bodies such as Age Concern. Her last years were sad as she became more and more disabled by successive strokes.

ROB PARKER

Rob Parker, cave diver, rock climber and adventure sports cameraman, died on August 17 aged 35 in a diving accident in the Bahamas. He was born on June 10, 1962.

FEW SPORTS are more fraught with danger than diving into current-swept caves beneath a tropical seabed. Yet Rob Parker approached the dangers of this adventurous activity with meticulous care, driven by his passion for exploring unknown territory. For cave diving enthusiasts, exploring the earth's inner spaces is the mirror image of attempting the highest summits in the Himalayas. Parker also felt the excitement of visiting places never seen before, some containing undiscovered traces of unknown prehistoric life-forms.

Parker was among the leading scuba-divers who adapted their apparatus to investigate flooded cave systems. He broke the record for the deepest cave dive in Britain when in 1985 he reached a depth of 63 metres in the flooded passages of Wooky Hole beneath the Mendips Hills of Somerset. He overcame the limitations inherent in conventional compressed air equipment by adopting a mixed gas system using oxygen, helium and nitrogen, which allows divers to remain at greater depths for longer.

In the early 1980s, Parker had joined a British expedition to the Blue Holes of Andros in the Bahamas, where Martyn Farr, a fellow diver from



Llangynidr, Powys, set a world record for underwater cave exploration. Parker had earlier supported Farr's cave diving expeditions down Wooky Hole. In 1984 he joined the leading American cave diver Bill Stone to the Blue Holes of Andros in the Bahamas, where Martyn Farr, a fellow diver from

master of the techniques, he returned to Andros, where he played an important part in the further exploration of the Blue Holes. There were other expeditions to China and to Wakulla Springs in Florida, where with Stone and a team of other Americans he explored one of the world's deepest and largest underwater caves.

Parker's background and experience helped to take the sport a stage further, and he helped with the design of a diving bell in which divers could decompress in comfort and safety. The expedition also employed underwater scooters for rapid transport. Parker planned to return to Wakulla Springs later this year as a lead diver in further explorations.

Parker was also a pioneer in bringing cave diving to the television screen. At the time of his fatal accident, he was working as an underwater cameraman on a film for German television about an unexplored cave. The film was to have commemorated his long friendship with Rob Palmer, a leading British cave diver and writer who died in another diving accident in the Bahamas earlier this year.

Robert Bernard Parker grew up and went to school in Hampshire, becoming a carpenter by trade. As a teenager he took up rock climbing, his first adventure sport, on the coastal cliffs at Swanage. He maintained this interest throughout his life, and was co-director and founder of the Bristol Climbing Centre. He was separated from his wife. They had no children.

Brandon Tartikoff, American television executive, died in Los Angeles from Hodgkin's disease on August 20 aged 48. He was born in New York on January 13, 1949.

BRANDON TARTIKOFF was once described as the Great Gatsby of American television. Wealthy and self-assured, ambitious and successful, he was considered one of the cleverest schedulers in the history of the medium. In his 12 years as president of NBC Entertainment, he lifted the network from the ratings basement to first place.

The programmes that Tartikoff acquired and promoted at NBC read like a list of the greatest hits of the past decade: *Hill Street Blues*, *The Cosby Show*, *Miami Vice*, *St Elmo's Fire*, *Cheers* and *Family Ties* all bore the Tartikoff imprimatur. In a story that has since entered television folklore, it was during a 1980s meeting with the producer Anthony Yerkovich that Tartikoff scribbled the two words "MTV cops" on a napkin. The show became *Miami Vice*, the cornerstone of the NBC network's resurrection.

As a child growing up in New York, Brandon Tartikoff did not merely watch television; he studied it. He often feigned illness to stay at home and watch, and as a ten-year-old he informed his parents that the lead character in the show *Dennis the Menace* was miscast.

As a student of Robert Penn Warren at Yale University, Tartikoff once commented that a story by D. H. Lawrence needed a stronger plot. Penn Warren sardonically suggested that Tartikoff was cut out for a career in television.

On graduation, he took Penn Warren at his word, joining a station in Chicago owned by the American Broadcasting Company. Rap



idly winning a reputation as a genius at scheduling, he did wonders for the ratings of their late-afternoon movies by packaging them around a theme.

It was Tartikoff who put together a series of horror films to run together as "Not for the Weak Week," and *King Kong* and other legends as "Thriller Gorilla Week." The cheeky gamble paid off handsomely, bringing him to the attention of NBC in 1977.

NBC's scheduling at that time was the laughing stock of the industry. When the network's boss, Fred Silverman, appointed Tartikoff head of programming in 1980 at the tender age of 30, NBC's critics viewed it as very much a last throw of the dice.

Tartikoff quickly shucked his grasp of popular taste. Backing a hunch that family-style sitcoms were due for a comeback, he approached the comic Bill Cosby about joining the network, then championed a second sitcom about ageing hippies and their conservative children called *Family Ties*. In

his first year at NBC, Tartikoff also introduced *Hill Street Blues*, *The Cosby Show*, *Knights in the Sky*, *The A-Team*, *L.A. Law*, *The Golden Girls*, and *St Elmo's Fire*.

By 1985 the network was able to claim the number one position in the ratings for the first time in 30 years. By the end of the decade NBC made history by finishing in first place 68 weeks in succession.

But for all Tartikoff's success as a broadcasting executive, his private life was repeatedly threatened by battles with Hodgkin's disease. The cancer was first diagnosed during a routine examination when he was only 25, and though he underwent a series of gruelling radiation treatments, Tartikoff never missed a day's work. At one point in 1982, in the midst of radiation treatments, he attended a meeting of NBC affiliates, presenting his new schedules wearing a wig and false eyebrows taped on to his forehead.

In 1990 Tartikoff suffered a further health setback after a

serious motor accident, in which his eight-year-old daughter was even more gravely injured than he was. In the wake of the accident, Tartikoff left NBC to reappraise his life. The only logical step up the entertainment ladder appeared to lie in the movie industry, and later that year he joined Paramount Pictures as chairman.

He did not make a smooth transition to the world of the cinema — he said he was puzzled by the obsession with box-office grosses — and concern for the welfare of his daughter drove him out of Paramount in 1992, a decision that stunned Hollywood and saw the company's stock price drop sharply on Wall Street on the day of the announcement.

Subsequently he established himself as an independent producer, working for New World Entertainment, and a company he himself created called H. Beale, named for the character of Howard Beale in the movie *Network*. He is survived by his wife, Lilly, and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SERVICES, FOR SALE, FLATSHARE, TRUSTEE ACTS, DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS, TICKETS FOR SALE, LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

ON THIS DAY

August 30, 1859

Befriended by literary giants in this country, Leigh Hunt founded the first radical, the Examiner. It became fashionable, but at a price for its editor.

OBITUARY

MR LEIGH HUNT.

The character of Leigh Hunt's writings is very varied. As an essayist he had occasionally flashes of that odd humour which in Charles Lamb's writings is so irresistible and unique. But his prevailing characteristic was a delicate sensitiveness of thought which seemed sometimes carried to excess. To readers who love bold positive dogmas Leigh Hunt seemed always too considerate. Too capable of seeing many sides of a question: but the peculiarity was evidently the result of very widespread sympathies, and a thorough conscientiousness in literary expression. Those who knew him personally also recognized in his writings the natural gentleness and charity that thickened his tendency weakens the force of his expression in many of his written opinions. It gave to hasty observers an impression prejudicial to his manliness, but Leigh Hunt proved his moral

courage more decisively than by denunciation of opinions adverse to his own. In days when Liberal opinions were dangerous he expressed them firmly and fearlessly, and he suffered with calm constancy an imprisonment which a slight submission could have easily evaded. His father was a West Indian, and his mother a Philadelphian; but at the period of the American Revolution his father took the British side in politics, and manifested his loyalty to the Crown so warmly that he was forced

to fly to England... Leigh became in 1808 founder and joint proprietor of the Examiner. This journal he edited for many years, and rendered exceedingly popular. Some remarks, directed against the practice of flogging in the army, became the subject of a prosecution. He was acquitted, but this was not to be the last of the Hunts' appearances in the law courts. A fashionable newspaper having called the Prince Regent an Adonis, Leigh Hunt, in a fit of indignation at the Regent's having broken his promise to the Whigs, added — "of fifty". The prince's vanity triumphed over his discretion and on the pretended ground of some words of more serious import a third prosecution was instituted. The jury upon this occasion found a verdict of guilty against Leigh Hunt and his brother John, and each was sentenced to pay a fine of 500l. and to suffer two years' imprisonment. Offers not to press the penalties were made on condition that no similar attacks should appear, but were with constancy rejected...

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patricia Wheatcroft

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Bauman moves in to revive BTR's fortunes

By PAUL DURMAN

LEADING investors yesterday warmly welcomed BTR's decision that its next chairman will be Bob Bauman, the American chairman of British Aerospace and the driving force behind the creation of SmithKline Beecham.

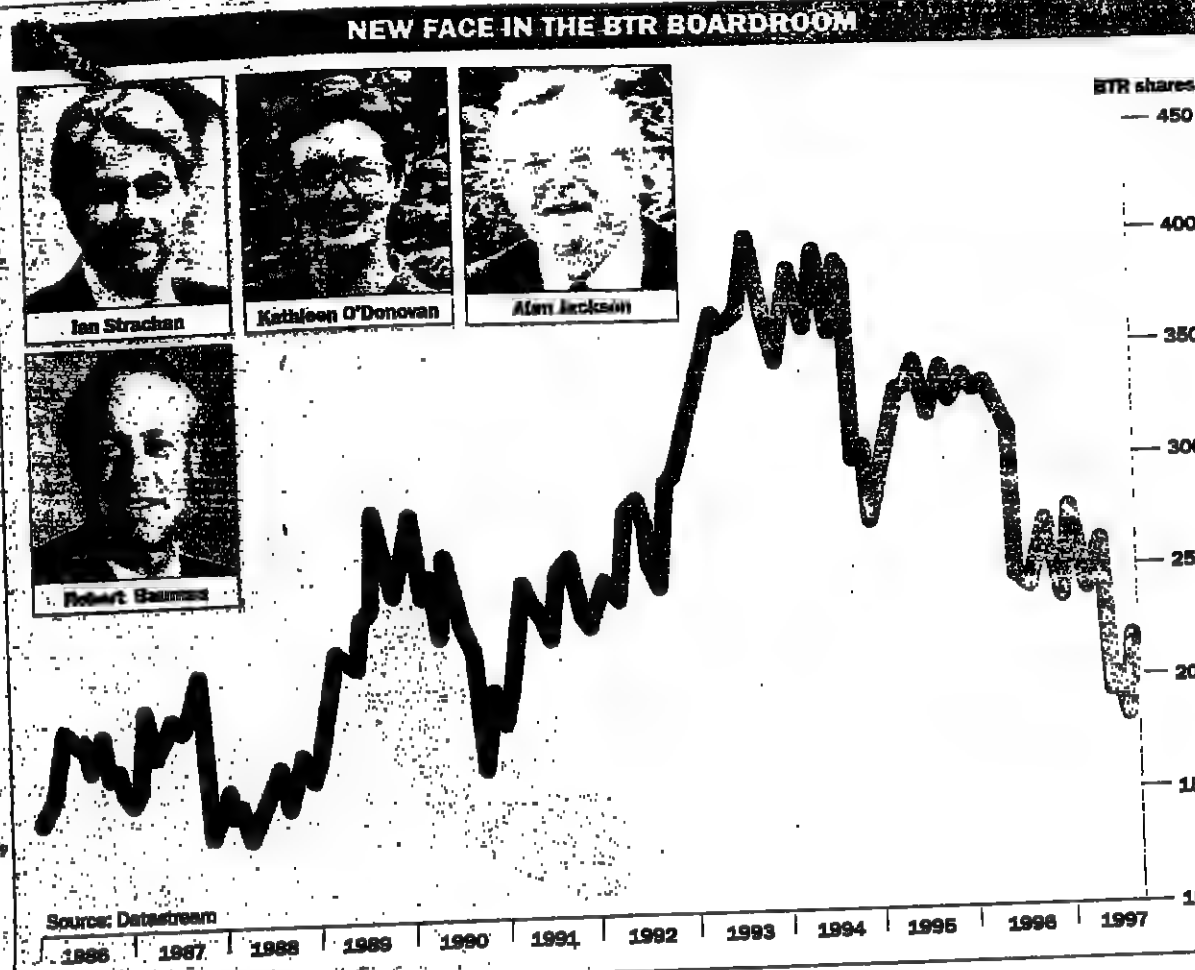
Mr Bauman, 66, is regarded as the sort of heavyweight figure needed to oversee the £10 billion manufacturing group's attempt to pull itself out of years of decline.

However, some investors questioned whether, as a non-executive chairman, he will be sufficiently involved to precipitate important changes. Some would like him to prove himself by firing or sidelining Kathleen O'Donovan, the BTR finance director who has been criticised for having a weak grasp of strategic issues.

Mr Bauman will replace Elwyn Eilledge, previously the senior partner of Ernst & Young, BTR's auditor for many years and little known in the City until he became chairman in May last year.

BTR plans that Mr Bauman will join its board as deputy chairman in October and take over as chairman after next May's annual shareholders' meeting. The announcement added 11.5p to BTR's shares, lifting them to 218p.

Shareholders were unanimous in praising Mr Bauman's appointment. One large investor said it would be a sign Mr Bauman meant business. "If we see Kathy go, it's not because she's a bad finance director, but because she's there to do what everyone's always wanted her to do, to collect the numbers and not be difficult." Other institutions were more critical of Ms O'Donovan. One said: "She does not particularly impress. If I was just having a meeting



with her about BTR, I don't think I would come away impressed very often." However, Ms O'Donovan does have her supporters, including Standard Life.

One institution praised Mr Eilledge for being "big" enough to retire ahead of schedule. The fund management chief said: "He's done 80 per cent of the right stuff - if possible, he should have gone slightly earlier." Another senior investment manager who

had met Mr Eilledge gained the impression that "there's nothing there apart from the guy thinking, this is rather nice, being made chairman of FTSE 100 company".

After years of steady profits growth driven by margin improvements, BTR is embarking on a sweeping cultural change under Ian Strachan, the chief executive who joined July 1995 to replace Alan Jackson. The group is trying to encourage its managers to

Sultan acts to rescue currency

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Sultan of Brunei was seen as white knight to his troubled neighbours yesterday with dealers saying he was a major buyer of Singapore dollars and Malaysian ringgit.

The world's richest man has already signalled his readiness to help to stabilise plunging Asian currency and stock markets by contributing \$500 million (£310 million) to a \$16.7 billion IMF rescue package for Thailand.

Dealers in the Far East yesterday identified the Brunei Investment Agency as a significant buyer of Singapore dollars, and saying the agency appears to have been an active purchaser of Malaysian ringgit.

Traders and currency strategists in London were sceptical that intervention of this kind would make any lasting difference and Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, warned the region's central bankers not to waste money fighting the markets.

The amount spent by Brunei on buying Singapore dollars was put at around \$300 million, an amount described as "small beer" by one currency strategist in London.

A Far East analyst said: "The Sultan of Brunei knows that, however much he throws at the problem, it will not be solved without proper adjustments in economic policy."

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, said that governments must be prepared to intervene directly.

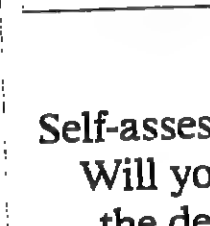
The Singapore dollar bounced to 1.4960 to the dollar from an earlier 38-month low of 1.5375 and the ringgit jumped to 2.8630 to the dollar from a record low of 2.9650.

Funds hit, page 26

WEEKEND MONEY



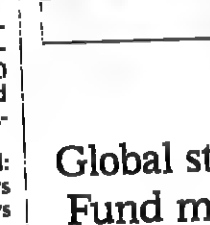
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Anne Ashworth
on the fast track
to home ownership



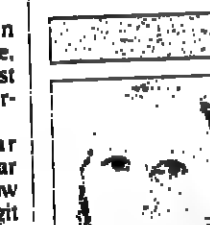
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Brussels concern for GMG merger

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Competition Commissioner, will tell Guinness and Grand Metropolitan next week that he has serious concerns about their proposed merger.

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4817.5	(-27.8)
Yield	3.43%	
FTSE All share	2272.2	(-11.87)
Nikkei	12228.42	(-222.05)
New York	7867.25	(-27.18)
Dow Jones	9074.5	(-27.18)
S&P Composite	902.89	(-0.98)
3-month Int. Rate	7.5%	(7.5%)
10-year Int. Rate	11.4%	(11.4%)
Yen	162.77	(1.8189)
London	1.8210	(1.8191)
DM	2.9102	(2.9019)
FF	6.0738	(6.0840)
SP	6.8570	(6.7648)
S&P	2.4068	(2.3958)
Yen	195.09	(191.26)
S index	102.3	(101.5)
Tokyo close Yen	119.35	
Brunt 15-day (Nov)	\$18.85	(\$18.80)
London close	\$324.65	(\$325.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Botts team opts out of Grundig

By OLIVER AUGUST

A UK investor group led by Botts & Co, the London merchant bank, has abandoned its attempt to rescue Grundig, the ailing German television maker.

The UK investors sold their 43 per cent stake, which they bought from Philips last month, to a Bavarian investor group for an undisclosed sum.

At the time of purchase, the UK group said it would inject new capital into Grundig with a view to selling its stake in three to five years.

Botts also talked about gaining majority control in 2004, when more shares will become available. The bank had not seen Grundig's accounts before the acquisition.

A Botts spokesman said yesterday: "We have found a 'Bavarian' solution that all parties believe is in the best interest of Grundig."

Grundig has also settled a dispute over the validity of its accounts with Philips, a shareholder. Philips will pay compensation of around £130 million.

CWC and BSkyB in pay-TV pact

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE & WIRELESS Communications, the largest cable group, has broken ranks with the rest of the cable industry by agreeing in principle to use BSkyB as its pay-per-view supplier instead of developing a service of its own.

An announcement is expected within a few weeks. A CWC official said that negotiations are largely finished and are being reviewed by lawyers.

The agreement is a big victory for BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

CWC formed earlier this year through a merger of Mercury Communications and three cable companies, made it known from the outset that it was considering a pay-per-view service of its own. This would have allowed it to keep most of the profits in what has become the fastest-growing sector of the pay-TV market.

Salomon Brothers, the broker, has estimated that BSkyB's digital pay-per-view service, to be launched next year, will generate £344 million in annual revenues by 2000. The service allows customers to pay to see individual

films and sporting events. BSkyB's first pay-per-view event, the Frank Bruno-Mike Tyson fight, attracted 600,000 subscribers.

BSkyB would neither confirm nor deny that an agreement has been struck with CWC. The company has, however, always said that it was confident that the leading cable companies would opt for its pay-per-view service.

CWC chose not to develop a pay-per-view service for fear of confusing customers: subscribers would have been offered BSkyB's version, called Sky Box Office, as well as its own. Competition between two services would have driven up programming costs.

CWC's agreement with BSkyB will rock the cable industry. The cable companies had formed a group called On Demand to study the idea of creating a pay-per-view service in competition with BSkyB's. With CWC linked with BSkyB, On Demand's chances of success are considerably smaller.

However, TeleWest, the second-largest cable company, may still launch its own pay-per-view service.

Ivory hires Phoenix to rise from ashes

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

IVORY & SIME, the Scottish fund manager, has admitted that it is looking for a partner to rescue it from the doldrums by appointing DLJ Phoenix, the merchant bank, to advise on "strategic options".

In the past year, Ivory & Sime has been hit by high-level departures, including Colin Hook, the former managing director, and the loss of important mandates, including the £700 million BAA pension fund. In addition, several of its investment trusts, notably Enterprise and

Baronsmead, look vulnerable to takeover, which could lead to further reduction in fee income.

Speculation over who would buy the company has focused on two European financial services groups, ABN Amro and Fortis.

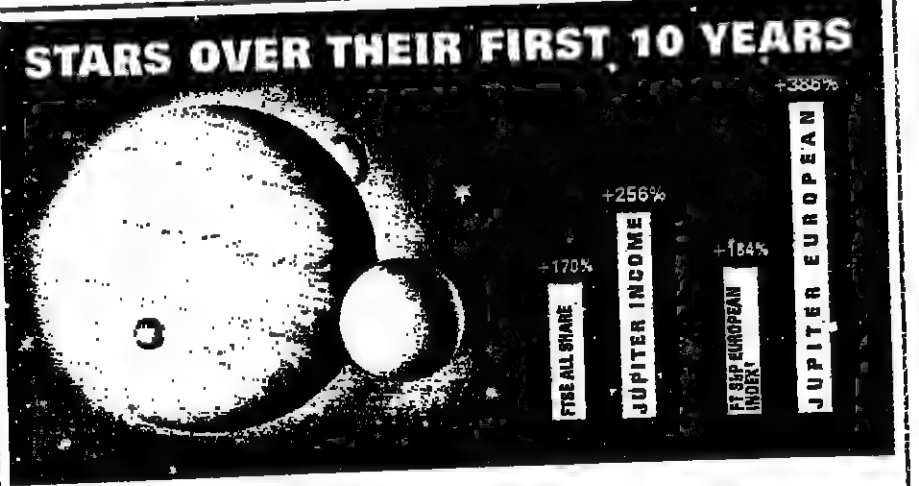
Putting the best possible spin on the move, Sir David Kinloch, chairman and chief executive, said: "We have been approached by several parties. Phoenix's role will be to evaluate their proposals and progress the talks. We recognised that there would be a strong likelihood of

a leak and thought it would be better to open about what is happening."

Ivory & Sime is 29.2 per cent owned by Caledonia Investments, run by the Cayzer family. Ivory & Sime said that Caledonia recognised that "any enlargement of the group might involve a dilution of its interest".

Sir David would not comment on what level Caledonia might be left with, nor on whether the Ivory & Sime brand would be kept if the company were taken over.

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Jupiter's Income and European Funds

In August 1987, Jupiter launched their Income and European unit trusts. Jupiter's record of performance stems from a consistent investment strategy carried through by a team of top-quality, long-serving fund managers. To be part of this success, find out more about these star performing funds and the Jupiter PEP (including our "Windfall" option). Don't miss out on this double act. Talk to your financial adviser, call us free or return the coupon.

JUPITER
Leaders in long-term performance

Bar chart: "Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.8.87-1.8.97. Source: Mirocapital 18th Annual Report. Five year performance to 1.8.97: Jupiter Income +233% (1st out of 80 sector funds); FTSE All Share +137%; Jupiter European +239% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTSE European Index +153.0%; offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Mirocapital."

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Please send me further information on: The Jupiter Income/European Funds ☐ The Jupiter PEP ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐

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Currency turmoil hits City's Far East funds

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE currency and stock market crises in the Far East have sent the City's Far East funds — which have been among the best performing and most exciting in recent years — running for cover.

The funds' woes increased this week as Malaysia, formerly one of the most favoured of the "tiger" economies, took action which effectively prevented foreign investors from trading in the country's blue chip stocks.

Global investors, already nervous in the face of increasing volatility, reacted by selling their stocks in other countries such as Hong Kong and India in an attempt to reduce their exposure to the

region. The result has been a freefall in equities reminiscent of the Mexican peso crisis in December 1994 which sent emerging markets around the world plummeting.

Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines have been the main victims of this downward spiral brought on by a combination of rising levels of debt and overvalued currencies. Since the start of July their stock markets have fallen between 20 and 40 per cent in terms of sterling.

This has had a traumatic effect for collective funds used by UK investors, particularly as most do not hedge against currency movements. Shares of investment trusts in the Far East, excluding Japan, for instance, have seen their discounts widen a third to 16.4 per cent in the past month. Meanwhile, the average growth of 224 offshore Far East funds has been just 0.03 per cent since the start of July.

Closer to home, the performance of most unit trusts has not been much better, particularly as the average hides some horrific figures from individual funds. Fidelity's ASEAN unit trust has fallen over 16 per cent since July.

Andrew Salton of Old Mutual, whose Thailand Trust has lost over a fifth of its value in the past two months, says the outlook is not good as the countries face stiff competition from China, their giant neighbour. He says countries such as Malaysia are finding the experience of a recession difficult to bear after a decade of strong economic growth.

Andrew Couch, global equity strategist at Guinness Flight, says the worst is over but more falls will come. "It is difficult to catch a falling knife. These countries are two-thirds down their descent. They have one third left to go. All you can say is that in 12 months' time they will be in a fantastic position to recover."

Trust Watch, page 38

Autoliv in bid for Marling

By CHRIS AYRES

AUTOLIV, the Swedish automotive safety products group, yesterday made an agreed £31 million cash offer for Marling, the troubled industrial textiles company.

The offer values Marling's shares at 17p each, a 70 per cent premium to the company's share price on Thursday.

Marling already supplies seatbelt materials to Autoliv, which holds a 20 per cent stake in its seatbelt division.

Autoliv said the move was another step forward in its programme of vertical integration. Marling had sales of about £62.7 million last year on pre-tax losses of £5.2 million. It ran into trouble after a bungled attempt to diversify into healthcare.



Cellars buyer: Nader Haghighi, right, and Rob Lucas of CVC, which backed the management buyout of the division.

Managers buy Greenalls off-licences

By DOMINIC WALSH

NADER HAGHIGHI has come a long way since hawking cigarettes and chewing gum on the streets of Iran as a child. Yesterday he unveiled a £56 million management buyout of Cellars, the Greenalls Group's off-licence division.

with backing from CVC Capital Partners and NatWest Ventures. The debt is being provided by Bank of Scotland.

Mr Haghighi, who intends to expand the business, was managing director of Cellars for three years until his promotion in March to marketing and commercial director of Greenalls' pubs and

restaurants division. Cellars, which is based in Warrington, operates 460 off-licences, of which 270 trade under the Cellar 5 brand.

The book value of the business was £67.8 million and Greenalls, which has been seeking a buyer for three months, will book a £13 million loss on the disposal.

Bank home loan slowdown in July

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITISH banks yesterday reported a slight slowdown in the growth of their mortgage lending business in July, providing tentative evidence that the pace of activity in the housing market may be starting to ease.

Net mortgage lending rose by £886 million in July, slightly down on the increase of £915 million in June, according to the British Bankers' Association.

New approvals were also weaker than in June. The number of new approvals fell to 45,043, from 49,972, and their value declined to £2.72 billion, from £2.81 billion the previous month. The BBA

noted that both the number and the value of new approvals rose by 4 per cent between June and July last year.

However, the BBA also pointed out that the average value of approvals, of £60,300 in July this year, was still up 4 per cent on a year ago. In addition, gross lending of £3.12 billion in July represented a leap of 9 per cent from June's level.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders today predicts a rise of 6.5 per cent in nationwide house prices next year, only a little down on the 7.2 per cent increase expected this year.

SFM quits fight to run Saracen

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SFM Investment Management has pulled out of the battle to manage Saracen Value Trust (SVT), the only investment trust that it manages.

Independent directors of SVT have told the fund manager of their intention to end its contract after SFM withdrew its proposals to reorganise the £110 million trust.

SVT, an investor in smaller companies, has underperformed most competitors and had seen its share price fall to a 20 per cent discount to net asset value at the start of this month.

Earlier this month, HSBC, backed by 40 per cent of shareholders, called for itself to be

made investment manager. Since then 13 other fund managers have approached the beleaguered trust about taking it over. A special meeting to debate HSBC's proposal is to be held on 18 September.

Antony Dick, SVT chairman, has urged shareholders to reject HSBC's proposals. He favours separate proposals by Invesco and JO Hambro & Partners and is seeking talks with both companies.

SFM can expect £2 million in compensation if its contract is cancelled soon. James Fisher, SFM managing director, said this would be used to start a small companies unit trust.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

MMC rules on property centres

SOLICITORS' property centres in Scotland are not operating against the public interest, according to a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Nigel Griffiths, Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, said: "The MMC found that a complex monopoly situation exists in favour of solicitors' property centres in Scotland." But he added that the arrangements under which the nine property centres operated "do not and may not be expected to operate against the public interest".

Solicitors in Scotland are often involved in property sales on behalf of clients. The property centres provide a central marketing outlet for houses being sold by member-solicitors and, with a high street presence, are in direct competition with chains of estate agents. The 18-month investigation looked at the way in which centres operate, which does not allow independent estate agents to share facilities and may exclude properties that are also being marketed by estate agents. In spite of the restrictions imposed by the centres, the MMC said that there was no evidence of a lack of effective competition in the provision of estate agency or conveyancing services.

Battle enters pit talks

JOHN BATTLE, the Energy Minister, has agreed to meet representatives of miners at the Asfordby pit in Leicestershire, which was closed last week by RJB Mining, after previously saying that the closure was not a government matter. The meeting has been brokered by David Taylor, Labour MP for Leicestershire North West, after representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers this week sat down together for the first time in 13 years. City Diary, page 27

MSAS chief to leave

JOHN ALLAN, the chief executive of Ocean Group, is taking direct control of MSAS, the logistics subsidiary, after asking Doug Ash, the MSAS chief executive, to leave. Mr Ash does not have a new job lined up. The company insisted yesterday that "there have been no disagreements over strategy and no personality clashes". Mr Ash was asked to leave because his seven-year tenure was felt to have been long enough, a spokesman said. There are no immediate plans to formally appoint a successor to Mr Ash.

Check on union fees goes

DEMANDS that union members should endorse the payment of subscriptions through their salaries every three years are set to be scrapped. The Department of Trade and Industry plans a one-off authorisation of the "check-off" payments with employees free to opt out of the arrangement whenever they choose. The requirement for regular endorsements was introduced by the Conservatives in 1994. But it has been unpopular with employers as well as unions. Companies dislike the arrangement for being too bureaucratic and costly to administer.

Ashtead acquires Sheriff

ASSTEAD, the plant-hire group, has agreed to buy the rival Sheriff Holdings for £39 million. In an all-paper takeover, making the company the second-largest name in its sector. The deal will lift Ashtead's portfolio of businesses from 155 to 205, and is expected to add £30 million to annual sales. The company said that it is saving its cash firepower to build up its presence in America, and is to couple its US expansion with a dual listing in New York early next year. Sheriff shares leapt 61p to 330p; Ashtead shares held at 300p.

Leisure company in red

LATE-SEASON transfer activity sent Southampton Leisure, owner of Southampton Football Club, into the red last year. The club incurred a loss of £1.45 million on signings and registrations although Rupert Lowe, chairman, said yesterday that money was still available to strengthen the team. In the 14 months to May 31, which includes four-and-a-half months of contributions from the football club, Southampton incurred a loss of £910,000 (£267,000 profit). The final dividend was maintained at 1p, payable on November 7.

Photo-Me out of focus

PHOTO-ME International, the photo-booth company, saw an 8.3 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the year to April 30, from £11.3 million to £10.3 million. Turnover fell 14.5 per cent, from £199 million to £170 million, and earnings per share dropped from 8.48p to 8.36p. The final dividend, payable on January 2, will again be 3.5p, leaving the total year dividend unchanged at 5p. The company, which blames its disappointing performance of the strength of sterling, has a new range of fun photo-booths and is seeking acquisitions.

Petrol station deal

RIKKI HUNT, former managing director of Burmah Petroleum Fuels, is buying Thames Rico Service Stations from Thames Petroleum Products Group in a deal backed by Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group. Through the newly formed Petrol Express company, Mr Hunt hopes to build a national chain of petrol retailing service stations to meet what is seen as a need for a serious long-term independent oil company. Thames Rico operates 25 sites, mainly Esso-branded, and Petrol Express intends to expand rapidly by acquisition.

Bruntcliffe slumps

BRUNTCLIFFE AGGREGATES, the quarry company that received a £26.2 million agreed bid this month from Enstone, the building materials group, yesterday reported a 37 per cent slump in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 from £601,000 to £381,000. Turnover fell 3.8 per cent, from £13.7 million to £13.2 million, and earnings per share dropped 38 per cent, from 0.8p to 0.5p. An unchanged interim dividend of 0.4p will be paid on October 3. The company blamed its disappointing results on a shortage of major work in Scotland.

REWARDING TIMES

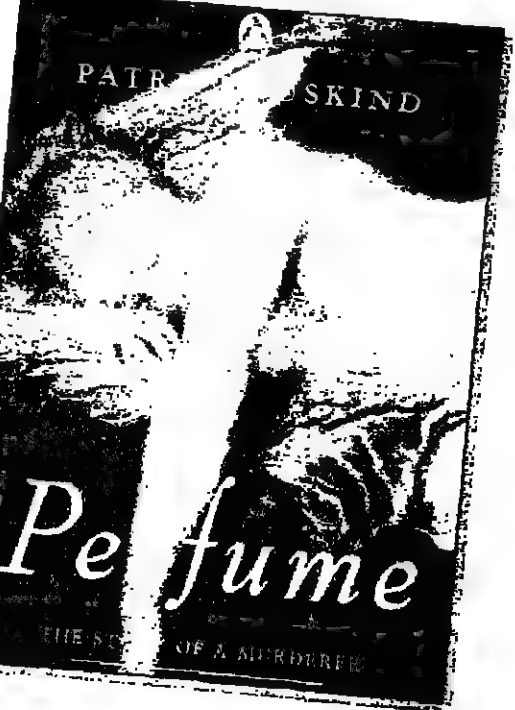
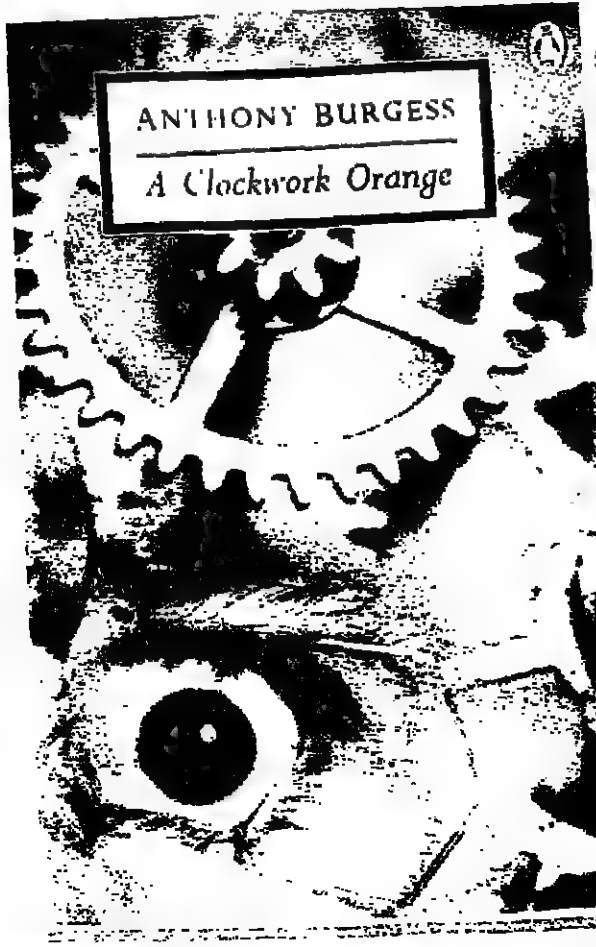
10 bestsellers for just £1.98 each

This week *The Times*, in association with Penguin Books, gives you the chance to obtain up to ten bestselling paperbacks for your summer reading for as little as £1.98 each. There are eleven outstanding works of fiction for you to choose from and one autobiography.

All you have to do is collect four

tokens per title from the six published in *The Times*. Below are two of the titles you can choose (a full list was published yesterday). Other bestsellers include Jack

Kerouac's *On the Road*, *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess, *The Trial* by Franz Kafka and *Cry The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.



LEFT: Alex and his three friends rob, rape, torture and murder for fun. This social prophecy is a penetrating study of human choice between good and evil. ABOVE: Set in 18th-century Paris, a fantastic tale of murder and twisted eroticism, highly original.



Jarvis fails to win over Hanover

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOHN JARVIS, chairman and chief executive of Jarvis Hotels, has been rebuffed after making a £30 million approach for Hanover International, a chain of six provincial hotels and one in Cork in the Republic of Ireland. Mr Jarvis may now decide to launch a hostile takeover.

Hanover, brought to the market two years ago by Peter Eyles, former chief executive of Norfolk Capital Hotels, yesterday confirmed that it had received "an approach which did not lead to a formal offer", adding: "No discussions are taking place."

Mr Eyles refused to identify the suitor, though City sources confirmed that it was Jarvis. He said: "We are a very precisely targeted high-quality independent hotel group that feels it can deliver value to shareholders through its independence."

Hanover's biggest hotel is the 270-bedroom Hanover International, at Hinckley, Leicestershire. Mr Jarvis, who recently walked away from a deal to buy some of Ladbroke's non-core hotels, would not comment on Hanover, but admitted "looking at everything".

Tempus, page 28

Risk control review at CSFB

By PAUL DURMAN

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston, the Swiss-owned investment bank, is reviewing its risk control systems after claiming that one of its option traders put an estimated £300 million at risk by taking unauthorised bets on the UK stock market.

CSFB has dismissed Philip Penner, a 33-year-old American, and reported his activities to the Securities and Futures Authority, the City regulator. The SFA has suspended Mr Penner's registration, which it granted only in May last year.

Mr Penner is alleged to have taken options on the movement in the UK stock market that far exceeded his trading limits, having previously been asked to close his positions.

The money concerned was CSFB's own capital rather than that of clients. When the extent of the option bets came to light, CSFB unwound the position, suffering a loss of less than \$10 million (£6.2 million).

The bank, which is part of the Credit Suisse group, already regards its risk controls as very stringent, but is reviewing them to see if lessons can be learnt from the affair.

Optus head to go in second shake-up

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE & WIRELESS yesterday announced the second management shake-up in three months at Optus, the Australian telecoms group in which it has a 49 per cent stake. The changes came the day after Optus's struggling pay-TV division announced a deep loss.

Peter Howell-Davies, the former chief executive of Mercury Communications who had been Optus's chief executive since June, is to step down in October. He will be replaced by Chris Anderson, currently chief executive of Television New Zealand and a director of Clear Communica-

tions, the country's second-largest phone group.

C&W said that Mr Howell-Davies knew from the outset that it was looking for another chief executive. "We just found one sooner than we expected."

Mr Howell-Davies is to continue as an executive director of Optus for several months.

He lost his job in London earlier this year when Mercury, which was 80 per cent owned by C&W, merged with three cable companies to create Cable and Wireless Communications.

Tempus, page 28

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ASIA CRASHES

The tumbling currencies and share markets of southeast Asia are turning out to be this summer's financial nightmare. Is the tiger boom over?

Business Focus — tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY PAPER

Bank of England		Bank of England	
Australia \$	2.26	Bank of England	2.26
Austria Sch	21.51	Belgium F	33.37
Canada \$	2.57	Denmark Kr	0.83
Cyprus Cyp	0.93	France F	1.00
Finland Mk	0.52	Germany DM	3.08
France F	1.00	Greece Dr	0.08
Germany DM	3.08	Hong Kong \$	13.34
Greece Dr	0.08	Ireland P	1.27
Hong Kong \$	13.34	Israel Sh	1.15
Ireland P	1.27	Italy Lira	2036
Israel Sh	1.15	Japan Yen	100.00
Italy Lira	2036	Netherlands Gld	0.37
Japan Yen	100.00	New Zealand \$	0.71
Netherlands Gld	0.37	Norway Kr	2.48
New Zealand \$	0.71	Portugal Esc	200.48
Norway Kr	2.48	S Africa Rd	0.31
Portugal Esc	200.48	Spain Ptas	166.64
S Africa Rd	0.31	Sweden Kr	1.34
Spain Ptas	166.64	Switzerland F	2.20
Sweden Kr	1.34	Turkey Lira	2.25
Switzerland F	2.20	USA \$	1.78
Turkey Lira	2.25		
USA \$	1.78		

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JON MOULTON

A maverick looking for the golden touch

Jon Ashworth meets the latest DIY baron — out to work alchemy on the newly acquired FADS

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

JON Moulton started the week with a full lunch diary, a string of telephone messages, and an ambitious deal in the making. This weekend, he is toasting his place as Britain's newest DIY baron, presiding over a range of high street shops that sell everything from wallpaper to home furnishings. Another interesting career move for a chemistry graduate who learnt his trade breaking up failed companies.

Moulton, 47 in October, and a millionaire, is one of the UK's foremost venture capitalists, with a succession of deals — and a mixed track record — to his name. Long associated with Schroder Ventures, which he founded in 1985, and later a director of Apex Partners, Moulton is currently riding high with Alchemy Partners, a private equity partnership that he formed in January with backing from a range of investors. The past few days have been as hectic as they are likely to get.

Earlier in the week, Moulton hammered down the terms of a deal that nets him more than 300 FADS and Homestyle shops from Boots, the Nottingham-based retail group. He becomes chairman of AG Stanley, hitherto Boots's home decorating business, which has not fared well in the face of competition from out-of-town DIY operators such as B&Q and Homebase. Moulton takes the helm at this leading baroque, intent on steering it into safer waters. Those who have felt the more forceful side of his character over the years will be gleefully hoping for some hidden rocks along the way.

The news that AG Stanley was being sold was broken to 27 senior managers on Wednesday night over dinner in the salubrious setting of the Manchester Airport Moat House. "Most of them still had an appetite," says Moulton, dryly. He spent the next two nights in Holmes Chapel in Cheshire, where AG Stanley has its head office, complaining noisily about the absence of a gym in his hotel. Observant locals would have seen him jogging through the streets as the milk was delivered.

Those who work closely with Moulton will tell you that

he spends his life eating. He does breakfasts — often at the Savoy, conveniently close to his office, just off the Strand. He lunches — typically at the Royal Society of Arts or in-house. He does "three or four dinners a week", occasionally at the Savoy Grill, and is rarely home before 11pm. A colleague with access to his diary says: "He is booked up for lunch until November."

Typically at his desk by 8am, Moulton spends most of his day on the telephone, taking call after call, and bellowing commands through the door of his office. He occasionally "crashes out" at his London pied-à-terre, currently in the clutches of a lodger, but tends to commute daily by train from Sevenoaks, where he lives with his wife, Pauline. They have a daughter, now at university, and a son, at school in Tonbridge. Moulton dispenses with chauffeured limousines and other corporate trinkets, and tends to travel by taxi.

After a hectic Bank Holiday Monday, in which he

spent hours on the telephone to the US, Moulton spent the following two days at his desk before catching the train north on Wednesday evening. He was up early on Thursday to watch the Boots announcement flash up on City screens, before settling down for a long day of meetings, debriefing AG Stanley managers and staff. He flew back from Manchester last night.

Moulton had not had the greatest run when he quit Apex in November after less than three years. He spent much of 1996 unsuccessfully negotiating the buyout of Signet, the jewellery group formerly called Ratners. Moulton is philosophical, saying: "Obviously I famously failed to complete Signet, but completing deals is easy if you pay too much." Ronald Cohen, Apex chairman, said of his departure: "In our industry, people do make a lot of money, and their objectives do change."

Alchemy duly followed, although whether Moulton will transmute the base metals of AG Stanley and others into golden investments remains to be seen. Challenged about the mythical process, he snapped: "If you do it in a nuclear reactor, it is quite feasible." He read chemistry at Lancaster University, lending some conviction to his claims. Moulton set out to make



Jon Moulton, who "could not be more delighted" with the progress of his Alchemy Partners, has taken on the difficult task of running the Homestyle chain disposed of by Boots

investments of £2 million to £20 million at a time, raising about £100 million or so a year from fewer than ten investors, including Bank of America and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. He has made 15 or 16 transatlantic trips since January. His other backers include United Bank of Kuwait, Merseyside Pension Fund and British Aerospace, along with Chase Venture Partners, in which Jeff Walker is a longstanding contact.

Alchemy has assembled an impressive team, including Martin Bolland, the former chief executive of the Princess and Metropole hotel chains. A recent catch is Eric Walters, one-time chief executive of the retailing operation of Grand Metropolitan, who went on to work with Moulton at Schroders. The Alchemy partners work on one floor around a central area, making for a sociable working environment.

Alchemy has a ten-strong industry advisory board, including Brandon Gough, former chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, for which Moulton worked as a manager from 1973 to 1981. He worked initially in insolvency, gaining useful insights into how not to run a company, and later crossed into mergers and acquisitions (M&A), winning a posting to New York.

Others on Alchemy's advisory board include Jacques Margry, former chairman and chief executive of Parker Pen, one of Moulton's most successful buyouts, and Nicola Foulton, chief executive of Brands Hatch Leisure, another Moulton-led deal.

Moulton is pleased with the way that Alchemy is going. He says: "I could not be more

delighted. We started on January 20, and have four, possibly five, deals on the books. We've raised the equivalent of £400 million in very short order." He has no regrets about moving on from Apex, saying: "I very much enjoy working in a smaller environment."

Often abrasive in his dealings, Moulton rose to prominence in the City just as the bull run of the Eighties was gathering pace. Coopers led to Citicorp, the US investment bank, for which he continued in New York before returning to London to run the UK venture capital arm. He was later headhunted by J Henry Schroder Wagg, one of the City's top merchant banks, which was intent on building a venture capital arm.

While still in his early thirties, Moulton rapidly established Schroder Ventures as a powerful force in UK management buyouts, leading the \$100 million (£62 million) buyout of Parker Pen from its

American parent, and heading the buyout consortium that bid for Land Rover, until the Government decided to remove the For Sale sign.

Moulton resigned as managing partner of Schroder Ventures in February 1994, in what was put down to a disagreement over strategy. It was said that Schroders had tried to impose tighter controls on its venture capital arm, threatening to cramp Moulton's style. The same theme emerged on Moulton's departure from Apex. Described as one of the industry's brightest, if maverick, deal-makers, he ascribed his departure to a need for "more flexibility and independence of action".

Never one to mince his words, he recently claimed to

have created more than 100 millionaires — himself included. The winners include Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, which was created through a Moulton-led deal, and is currently embroiled in controversy over the Afordby colliery in Leicestershire. Others to benefit include Chris Evans, founder of Chiroscience, the biotech group, and Barry Warwick of the Old English Pub Company.

Alchemy recently invested £3 million of equity in Phoenix Computer, a maintenance company that has IBM as its biggest client. It has invested the same again in the AG Stanley business.

Moulton once described himself as "one of the oldest

survivors in the trade", saying that his best personal gain from a deal was "in the low million pound double figures".

He added: "I have created 110 millionaires. 20 of them venture capitalists, including myself." With Alchemy, Moulton has deliberately set out to target "difficult deals" — and none is more difficult than a chain of loss-making DIY and home furnishings shops. With FADS and Homestyle, he is thought likely to focus on the bigger out-of-town sites, getting rid of the troublesome high street locations. Frequent trips to Cheshire appear inevitable — lunching and telephone calls allowing. There could be gold in it yet.

Twice the Price

STUDENTS! Are you rebels or robots? Either way, Price Waterhouse has the job for you. Free spirits stepping on to the Tube at Embankment — after an interview with nearby Coopers & Lybrand, perhaps? — are met with an advert from Waterhouse's SAP subsidiary: "All our consultants work in exactly the same way: their way." Brainwashed clones? Bean counters? Not Price Waterhouse. Least this approach intimidates the less individualistic graduate, another net has been cast at Bank station: "All our consultants work in exactly the same way: in a team." Courtesy of Price Waterhouse.

Spookily, the accountant took several days to admit to the existence of this parallel advertising campaign. So why the strange similarity? Because their specially assembled focus groups — yes, focus groups, even in accountancy these days — told them that's what today's kids go for. So they are only obeying orders...

● A MORE imaginative marketing team can be found at Cable & Wireless. One of its advertising men was overheard fantasising over running a mock BT television advert. Little girl



asks: "Why are my Daddy's phone bills so high?" Or a shot of Sir Iain Vallance stepping out of a taxi while the girl muses: "Why is that man making so much money?" Not fair, of course, and doomed never to be made, but it would be funny.

Hacked off

GOATEE BEARDS, as well as being a symbol of time-warped fashion values, my younger friends tell me, are a good way to identify dishonest computer programmers. This from Deloitte & Touche, whose team of "forensic" software detectives led by a Serious Fraud Office staffer have warned of cyber thieves who walk off with company secrets by hacking through the Internet. "Think about it," Deloitte's clients are warned. "That chap from the Internet Service Provider with the goatee beard and the doubtful taste in waistcoats who installed a router in your computer room... how much does he know?" They sure know how to sniff out villains at the SFO.

Shades of Leeds

THE Leeds and the Halifax may have merged two years ago, but the Leeds name, expunged from memory by the bank, lives on somewhere. It is visible from the restaurant on the top floor of the new Harvey Nichols in Leeds. As you munch on your Thai fishcakes, you stare out on to the old society's head office and the once proud Leeds Permanent logo, a reminder of the time when that city put thrift above Prada. But even this last crumbling remnant of a society founded in 1848 will disappear when the Halifax disposes of the building. Only difficulty of access has preserved the letters until now.

Chateau thrift

RICHARD LAMBERT, the Financial Times editor now based in New York,

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

has started in stern style. The five-strong bureau there was invited out to dinner on his arrival a while back, I hear. No expense spared, the writers thought as the wine and conversation flowed. Too true: only they were paying, because when Lambert called for the bill he carefully divided it six ways.

● THE awesome combination of Posh Spice, Baby Spice, the other three whose names I can't remember and the Football Association Premier League have lined up against a small perfume and cosmetics firm that is claimed to be producing goods bearing the names Spice Power, Spice Girls and, in something of a non sequitur, Premier League. A High Court writ alleges passing off and wants damages. A pity one of the five isn't called Old Spice. They could have cleaned up.

Mushy MPs

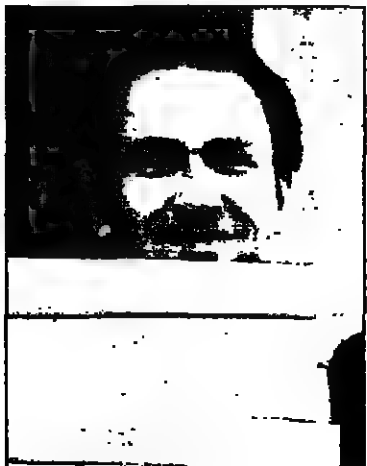
DAVID TAYLOR, MP for North West Leicestershire backing the campaign to save the Asfordby coal mine, has taken good-humoured umbrage at my suggestion that just because he drives a VW Golf with personalised number plates and arrived in Parliament after the last election, he must by definition be new Labour — and so doesn't know his mushy peas from his avocado mousse. He definitely espouses old Labour principles, he tells me. So is new Labour a term of abuse in

some sections of the party, therefore? "It's a label. Like all labels, sometimes it can be an accurate description, but in my case it's not," he says. "We're a mushy peas area rather than an avocado area — I don't think I've ever tasted avocado" — so neatly dissociating himself from the Mandelson wing of the party. Oh, and the car belongs to his wife.

Luke's gospel

JUST as well Luke Johnson, the entrepreneur behind Pizza Express and the last-but-one would-be saviour of the Sunday Business, is on holiday in the US. He is the target of a vitriolic attack in the newly revived Business Age, which is clearly continuing where the magazine left off before its refinancing. And courting a serious libel suit, because Johnson is not of the forgiving and forget persuasion — he once displayed a serious sense of humour failure when I teased him about his hyperactive career. I will not risk repeating too many of the Business Age accusations, but they relate to his conduct as main shareholder of the Sunday Business, and a slight tendency — here I paraphrase — to fly off the handle. "Maybe it's a good job he's out of the country," muses a colleague.

MARTIN WALLER



Luke Johnson: a tendency to fly off the handle?

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Far East worries batter Chartered and HSBC

STANDARD CHARTERED, the international banking group, came under the hammer after becoming the latest casualty of the crisis in Far East financial markets.

Goldman Sachs International, the US securities house, has downgraded its recommendation for Standard from "market performer" to "market underperformer".

Standard responded to the move with a further fall of 47.5p to 326.5p, stretching its two-day deficit to 149.5p. In the past two days it has seen £1.4 billion wiped from its \$9.5 billion stock market price tag.

David Townsend, at Goldman's, says the price has further to fall and has set a target of below 800p. "I've not reduced my numbers, yet. But the risks are growing. Six months ago we would have asked what risks? The Hong Kong currency is now being protected by rising interest rates. Risks are rising and that should be priced into the stock."

NatWest Securities said the worries about the Far East had been overdone, while rival Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull says Standard a "long-term buyer".

On Thursday, Goldman also lowered its recommendation for HSBC to "market underperformer". The shares fell further by 40.5p to £19.20, taking the fall of the past two days to 19p. It earns less than 20 per cent of its profits in the Far East, but it is the biggest constituent of the Hang Seng index.

The rest of the banking sector showed only modest falls, reflecting the downturn elsewhere. Takeover hopeful Abbey National dropped 7.5p to 536p. Barclays 5p to 514.12p. Lloyds TSB 1.5p to 72.2p, and Royal Bank of Scotland 6p to 589p.

The market recovered some of its composure after sharp falls earlier in the week. Prices reflected the continuing self-off overnight in Asian markets. They closed well off the bottom after the Dow Jones industrial average steadied itself, in spite of an opening loss of almost 90 points after a sell-off among US Treasury bonds on buoyant new home sales figures and the Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index.

The FTSE 100 index, down 60.2 at its low of the day, eventually reduced the deficit to 27.9 at 4,817.5 in thin trading



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK



Jonathan Fry, left, and Brian Hardy, finance director, of Burmah Castrol, down 30p ahead of half-year figures

that saw a total of 675 million shares change hands. It stretches the fall on the week to 83.6.

The utilities provided a useful prop to investors as they stood out with some useful gains in difficult conditions. National Power led the way higher with a rise of 11p to 568p, while PowerGen put on 3p to 781.5p. South West

against the trend, ending the day 4.5p better at 353.5p. Once again there is talk of a bid soon from Bass, the brewer, 1.5p firmer at 827p. Even if a bid is ruled out, hopes are high that a share buyback is in the offing.

Asda was the heaviest traded share among the top 100, with 37 million changing hands as the price finished

Shield Diagnostics rose 5p to 557.5p. Next week the company makes a series of presentations to European investors in London, Zurich and Milan. Top of the agenda will be its APT heart diagnosis system, which it is hoped will receive approval from the US Food and Drug Administration within the next few months.

Water 10p at 811.5p. Severn Trent 5p at 877.5p. Thames Water 4p at 792.5p and BG 4.5p at 270p.

Grand Metropolitan fell 1p to 560.5p and Guinness shed 1.5p to 541.5p as the two faced up to the prospect of further opposition to their proposed merger. The European Commission meets next week to take a look at the deal.

Fresh speculative buying enabled Rank Group to move

1.5p lighter at 444.5p after going ex-dividend earlier in the week. It seems most of the trading was between market-makers in an attempt to iron out a few open positions.

Elsewhere in the sector, J Sainsbury finished 5p lower at 431.5p, Safeway 1.5p at 375p, and Tesco 4p at 409p.

Burmah Castrol, headed by Jonathan Fry, chief executive, was a weak market, falling 30p to £10.20, ahead of half-

year figures on Monday. Brokers are becoming increasingly worried about the impact of a strong pound on what should be a relatively solid performance from the group. They are forecasting net income of between £67 million and £70 million. That compares with a figure of £67.7 million for the corresponding period. Merrill Lynch, the broker, points out that sterling has risen more than 10 per cent year-on-year - equivalent to a similar increase in profits.

A profits warning left AIM-listed Selector 10.5p lower on the day at 49.5p. The company says delays in production of its patented FOB-Stop valve will leave a dent in profits. Firm orders for 100,000 units are already on the order books.

On Demand Information, the electronic publisher, saw its shares hit another low with a fall of 2p to 8p after hitting shareholders with a triple whammy of bad news. Graham Poulter, chairman and founder, is quitting, the company will not meet its breakeven target for next year and may be sold anyway.

TLG, the lighting group, hived off from Thorn a rise of 3p to 106.5p on talk that Wassall, the industrial conglomerate, might spend some of its cash mountain bidding for the business. Wassall ended the day at 101.5p.

CLIL-EDGED: Opening falls among US Treasury bonds saw early gains on the London bond market whittled away to close virtually unchanged.

The sell-off in New York followed publication of that bullish Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index, which helped to revive fears that the economy was starting to overheat.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt closed unaltered at £111.12 in modest trading.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was unmoved at £111.12, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 was also steady at £101.16.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average shaved its losses in morning trade as it recovered from a sell-off triggered by turmoil in foreign stock markets and strong economic data. By midday the Dow was 27.18 points down at 7,667.25.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7,667.25 (-27.18)
S&P Composite 903.60 (-0.48)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16,229.42 (-222.09)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14,135.25 (-740.89)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 948.29 (-8.80)

Sydney:
ASX 2,993.00 (-38.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3,906.03 (-17.63)

Singapore:
Straits 1,805.64 (-10.80)

Brussels:
General 1,321.40 (-1.65)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,770.40 (-57.82)

Zurich:
S&A Gen 1,134.80 (-3.60)

London:
FTSE 100 4,817.5 (-60.2)

FTSE 250 4,603.4 (-18.0)

FTSE 100 Share 2,518.21 (-42.0)

FTSE All-Share 2,272.72 (-11.8)

FTSE Non Financials 2,299.80 (-10.7)

FTSE Financials 1,258.80 (-10.3)

FTSE Govt Secs 96.31 (-0.02)

FTSE 100 Vol 408.6

SEAO Volume 497.40

US\$ 1.6215 (+0.0008)

German Mark 2.9329 (+0.0008)

Exchange Index 102.2 (+0.02)

Bank of England official base rate (4pm)

ECU 1.9361

RPI 157.5 Jan (3.7%) Jan 1987-1990

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TEMPUS

The auditor signs off

THE City values Bob Bauman's contribution to BTR at £460 million - equivalent to 11.5p on the manufacturing group's former share price. The institutions are finally being offered a credible chairman to replace Elwyn "Low Mileage" Eilledge, the former head of BTR's auditors and widely thought to lack the clout for such a challenging role. Mr Eilledge claims "restructuring the board" as his main achievement. In less polite language, getting rid of the BTR old-timers who had slipped into non-executive directorships. With the consistency of a good auditor he has taken the strategy to its conclusion by removing himself.

The City's delight at Mr Bauman's arrival at BTR may not be shared by finance director Kathleen O'Donovan who will be even less pleased to learn that some institutions want

Mr Bauman to show who's in charge by sacking her - not because she can't make the numbers add up but because of her alleged strategic naivety.

More importantly, Mr Bauman must use the skills he showed in creating SmithKline Beecham in making more of what laughably passes for focus at BTR. Four "major global groups" and three "smaller global and regional groups" still lack a mess. The rationalisation leaves a proliferation of companies run by managers much more familiar with piling costs than with investing for growth.

BTR's shares seem to have found their level, shuffling between 190p and 210p. From 210p, the downside looks modest. But, at least until next month's results, it is too soon to buy for recovery.

Ivory & Sime

IN ITS own rather coy words, Ivory & Sime intends to "examine strategic opportunities to grow assets under management", but the stock market reckons the business has been on the block for some time.

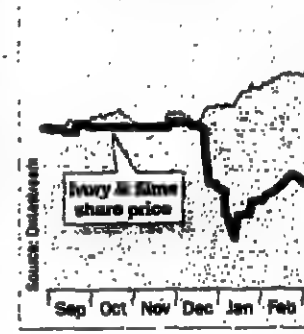
Rumours have been rife about talks with ABN Amro, and Fortis, a Dutch/Belgian insurer, since Ivory suffered a bout of staff defections leading to the loss of almost £500 million of BAA pension money. Yet, no bidders have emerged, not even from friendly quarters within the Edinburgh investment community. This does not bode well for the ultimate price. At 2 per cent of funds under management, Ivory is not cheap, given that its business has been contracting.

The irony is that Ivory & Sime's investment perfor-

mance was relatively good last year. However, the collapse of funds under management from £4.3 billion to £3.2 billion leaves a hole in its revenue account and the lemming-like behaviour of pension fund trustees ensures that any setback will be compounded with other defections. This is unfortunate as it reinforces the concentra-

tion of power within a few institutions - MAM, Schroders, PDM - whose performance could not be described as sparkling. A healthy band of boutique fund managers is what the industry needs, but these brave trustees who make the appointments appear to be more concerned with self-protection.

FUNDS WITHOUT MANAGEMENT



C&W

CABLE & WIRELESS has been a hive of activity since Dick Brown, the gregarious American, became chief executive a year ago. Peripheral investment and joint ventures were ditched, Mercury Communications was integrated with three cable companies to create Cable & Wireless Communications, and most recently, an agreement was struck with Beijing to swap equity in Hongkong Telecom, its most valuable business, for greater access to the vast Chinese telecom market.

While the strategy has been sound, the execution leaves something to be desired. C&W, it appears, has taken on too much, too soon, and is in danger of stretching itself beyond its management capabilities. Cable & Wireless Communications, not surprisingly, is off to a rocky start. The company is even shirking the development of its own pay-per-view service because it is too busy cobbling together

four companies. In Australia, C&W's Optus subsidiary is losing a fortune trying to marry a pay-TV service to its phone network. Meanwhile, there is growing belief that C&W's access to the Chinese market will fall short of expectations.

C&W, under Mr Brown, has outperformed the market. But do not be surprised if earnings come under pressure as all his projects, which looked so good on paper, prove difficult to build.

Hotels

BUSINESS is booming in the hotel world, but the City is unenthused. Shares in Thistle and Jarvis both trade below last year's floor prices. Millennium & Copthorne's recent excellent results caused a minor flurry of activity, but for the most part there is a breathtaking lack of interest in the leisure sector in general and hotel stocks in particular.

A good bid battle might get

things moving. In the aftermath of Granada's bid for Forte, a host of flotations and takeovers ensued. Jarvis's recent approach to Manover International is worth watching in case it turns hostile, and rumours persist that Prince al-Waleed bin Talal is casting his eye over the state assets of Cliveden. But neither is remotely in the same league. Ironically, Granada is partly to blame for the malaise, having jacked up room rates and encouraged others to follow suit. Rates have continued to go up on the back of the buoyant economy, but the dream scenario of good occupancy and high room rates cannot go on forever. Sooner or later, higher interest rates on discretionary spending and the effect of sterling on foreign business will take their toll. There will also be extra capacity to contend with.

The temptation to check in should be resisted.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current	Week's	Profit
Share	Change	Taking
BT	+36.5p	Profits
Europow	+34.5p	Profits
Asic (BSI)	+27.5p	Profits
Rank Group	+27.5p	Profits
National Power	+17.5p	Profits
HSBC	+17.5p	Profits
Standard Chartered	+17.5p	Profits
Burmah Castrol	+17.5p	Profits

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
ICE-100 (London)	10.30	+0.05
ICE-100 (New York)	10.30	+0.05
ICE-100 (Chicago)	10.30	+0.05
ICE-100 (Tokyo)	10.30	+0.05

Commodity	Price	Change
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ICE-100 (Chicago)	10.30	+0.05
ICE-100 (Tokyo)	10.30	+0.05

Commodity	Price	Change
ICE-100 (London)	10.30	+0.05
ICE-100 (New York)	10.30	+0.05

EDITOR signs off

MANAGEMENT



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ON THE RUN 31

As health cover rises, the elderly return to the NHS

WEEKEND MONEY

FIRST-TIME BLUES 35

Graduate loan fees may hit the whole housing market



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Six million taxpayers have just one month to file returns before incurring penalties, Sara McConnell reports

Revenue issues a four-week warning

The Inland Revenue is planning a renewed onslaught on the six million taxpayers who have yet to file their returns under the new self-assessment system. Failure to file correctly and on time could potentially land taxpayers with penalties totalling more than £1 billion, says Mintel, the independent research group.

An advertising campaign featuring Hector the Inspector, the Revenue's smug cartoon toadman, will start next week, warning people that they have only a month to file their returns if they want the Revenue to work out their tax bill.

Only 2.7 million people out of the 8.5 million who received returns in April have so far sent them back. This is just half the number that is expected to ask the Revenue to do the sums rather than tackling the confusing maze of boxes and instructions in the tax calculation sheet. Accountants and advisers are preparing for a last-minute panic as the deadline approaches.

September 30 is the first big deadline for taxpayers filling in the new self-assessment tax returns for the 1996-97 tax year. Those prepared to work out their own tax have until January 31, 1998, when they must send a cheque for what they think they owe with the completed return. Those who have left the calculations to the Revenue will be sent a tax bill at the end of January, based on the figures they have supplied. This will also include the balance of any tax owed for 1996-97. Self-employed will also have to make their first payment on account for 1997-98.

The advertising campaign will aim to ram home the message to taxpayers that these deadlines will be taken seriously. Under the old system, no one bothered much as long as returns were in by the end of October following the tax year. There were no fixed penalties for late filing and the only risk was that of interest on any unpaid tax. Now,



BEAT THE DEADLINE

Check the Revenue has sent you the relevant pages to fill in. You should have a basic eight-page return where you declare salary and pension contributions, and relief on pension contributions. You will get extra pages if you are self-employed or rent property for example. If you have the wrong pages call the Revenue order line on (0845) 000404.

Gather your records together. If you are an employee with extra tax to pay, you need a P60 from your employer (showing your salary and deductions), P11D (cash equivalent of taxable benefits like company cars). If you have changed jobs in the tax year you need a P45. If you are self-employed, you need records of income and expenses. You need statements from banks and building societies showing interest earned on investments. Some send them automatically but others must be chased. You must collect records of dividends from unit trusts and shares and certificates of personal pension contributions.

Remember you do not have to send the records themselves to the Revenue. You just like them to complete the return. But you must keep records for two years after the end of the tax year or risk a fine of up to £3,000. If you are self-employed you must keep records for six years. The Revenue can investigate your affairs at any time in the 12 months after the tax year ends.

The Revenue has a helpline if you get stuck: (0845) 000444.

Don't delay your return because you are waiting for one piece of information. Put in an estimate with a note of explanation.

for the first time, there will be a fixed penalty of £100 for filing your return after the final January deadline. If you have still not filed a 1996-97 return by the end of July 1998, you will pay another £100 fixed penalty. As the Revenue's discretion you could also face daily penalties of up to £60. On top of these you will pay interest on unpaid tax at the official rate of 8.5 per cent. If you do not pay what you owe by February 28, you will be billed for a surcharge of 5 per cent of the outstanding tax on top of interest and penalties.

Anyone sending in a return after September 30 but before January 31 will not pay a fixed penalty for failing to file but could risk incurring extra interest on unpaid tax. The Revenue said this week that anyone failing to file a complete return by September 30 could not rely on having their tax bill calculated by January 31. "If anyone sends in their return after September 30 we will work it out but we

can't guarantee we can let them know how much they owe by January 31. So they may have to pay interest on late payments."

Mistakes in tax returns could also potentially land taxpayers with interest bills, particularly as the deadline nears, the Revenue says. An estimated 40 per cent of returns processed so far have contained mistakes with 6 per cent of returns so wrong they have

had to be sent back. Anyone failing to respond by the deadline with the necessary corrections risks a penalty. The Revenue says those in this position should try to work out their tax with the calculation sheet.

Accountants also report that some Revenue staff working out tax bills are introducing mistakes when they key information from returns into their computers.

Ashley Deakin, chartered accountant and director of Tax Etc, the tax advisory service, says: "The

Revenue isn't infallible and we are seeing errors coming back. For example, pension contributions have not been included in some cases." But taxpayers have difficulty spotting such errors because the final bill is not broken down, says Mr Deakin.

The Revenue says that people "don't want to be overwhelmed with a detailed breakdown. If they're concerned that something hasn't been included they can always ring their tax office."

Accountants and tax advisers are braced for a busy September as people return from holiday and realise they have not sorted out their tax affairs.

Millions have got off the evil hour, daunted by the complicated-looking form, the new deadlines and the threat of penalties for mistakes or late filing. Many will be tempted to turn to a "tax professional" for help even if they have never previously done so.

The Revenue says most people who have not previously needed to pay professionals for help with their tax return should not need to start now just because they have to fill in the new self-assessment form. It says: "We don't believe people need accountants. Anyone can get help and we have 400 walk-in tax inquiry centres." The helpline is open out of office hours from 5pm to 10pm Monday to

Accountants are braced for a very busy month

Friday and 8am to 10pm Saturday and Sunday.

But self-assessment has spawned a new crop of high street tax advisers offering to complete tax returns for a fixed fee. Currently there is nothing to stop unqualified people from setting themselves up in business and calling themselves "accountant" or "adviser" or "consultant". Taxpayers who trust such people to do their returns

and incur penalties because of mistakes or missed deadlines will have no option but to seek redress through the courts.

By contrast, qualified accountants or tax advisers are members of professional bodies that require members to have professional indemnity insurance to protect clients if things go wrong. Choose as an adviser a chartered or certified accountant, a member of the Chartered Institute of Tax-

ation, or the Association of Tax Technicians.

A number of firms of chartered accountants now offer to complete simple tax returns for a fixed fee ranging from £75 to £175. Kingston Smith, the London firm, charges £75 for what its senior tax partner Richard Wallis says is an "absolutely basic" service. If you have just a salary, a couple of building society accounts and privatisation shares, you fit the basic profile.

Cooper Lancaster Brewer, with offices in London, Reigate, Manchester, Bolton, Lancaster and Sheffield, offers to complete returns and advise on tax payments or rebates for a fixed fee of £90. The London accountant Levy Gee's Taxpro service costs £175 including a registration fee of £25 for completing the return, going back to the client for necessary information, providing a helpline and submitting the return.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Our biggest mutual friend

Britain has never had anything quite like America's Fidelity Magellan mutual fund, the biggest open-ended pooled vehicle for ordinary investors. It grew vast by the classic method of picking individual growth stocks to outperform the market average. For most of its first 20 years it succeeded, and that record attracted so much money that the fund is now worth almost \$63 billion (£40 billion). This week, Magellan said it would close to new investors from October, though existing holders could still put new money in. Some say it was bowing to the inevitable.

In the early days of British unit trusts, the most popular funds were pretty cautious. Some invested in a spread of investment trusts, offering exposure to growth portfolios but with a double layer of diversification. More were directed to those wanting a high income, performing the useful function of spreading the implied extra risk in individual high-income stocks. Many such stocks proved good value, so, in dull markets, income funds often performed well on capital too.

Fund-of-funds units have faded but income funds remain perennially popular. The biggest UK unit trust, a general equity fund, weighs in at £3 billion. But most of the heavyweights are largely used for institutional investment. The biggest unit trust aimed squarely at individual investors is probably the £1.7 billion Perpetual High Income Fund. It serves the same purposes as income favourites 30 years ago.

To find anything comparable to Mag-



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

ellan in the UK, you have to venture into investment trusts such as the biggest-ranking £2 billion Foreign & Colonial. Like any pooled investment, it aims to spread risk. But there is no fixed portfolio formula. You pay experts to scour the investment world in the hope that their skills will make your money grow faster than the market average and better than you could do. Some do, some don't. Many do most of the time.

Peter Lynch built his own and Magellan's reputation in a 15-year stint as manager until 1990. Doubtless he was special. Like as not, he also quit at the right time, when it was becoming harder for a huge domestic fund to beat the average. Smaller funds are more agile and can therefore make worthwhile gains in small stocks.

Mr Lynch's successor until 1996, self-conscious about his inheritance, took bigger risks and marched more overtly against the crowd to beat it, with mixed results. The worst mistake was to move

Magellan into bonds, anticipating a break in equities that did not come. Peter Young of Morgan Grenfell similarly strove hard for dramatic performance. Magellan has now recognised that such a famous fund also suffers more than most from the classic dilemma of open-ended funds. Cash tends to stream in fastest towards the end of a bull market.

No wonder there is such a strong trend towards index-tracking funds, which bounce the timing dilemma back to the investor. They often outperform the local market average merely by virtue of lower costs. Barclays Global Investors, one of the biggest fund managers since its US merger, runs \$320 billion in index funds, four fifths of total funds under management.

It typically offers index-tracking for most of a portfolio spiced with highly active management for the rest. This combination aims to beat the average regularly by a little. Hermes pioneered such an approach in the UK for its pension funds.

This focuses the risk element of a portfolio to act like a small fund. Private investors have been doing this for years, putting most of their money in "safe" investments and putting a little on risky stocks with high potential, in volatile areas such as emerging markets or on promising but unproven managers of new trusts. A good manager of a big fund should also outperform the average by a little each year. More than that is bound to be matched by risk, however it is packaged.

paying money into your pension

Take a break if you need to, start again when you can. Put away a lot, a little, different amounts at different times. It's your money and your pension. We don't tie you up with stupid rules or charge you for changing your plans. To start today, give us a call.

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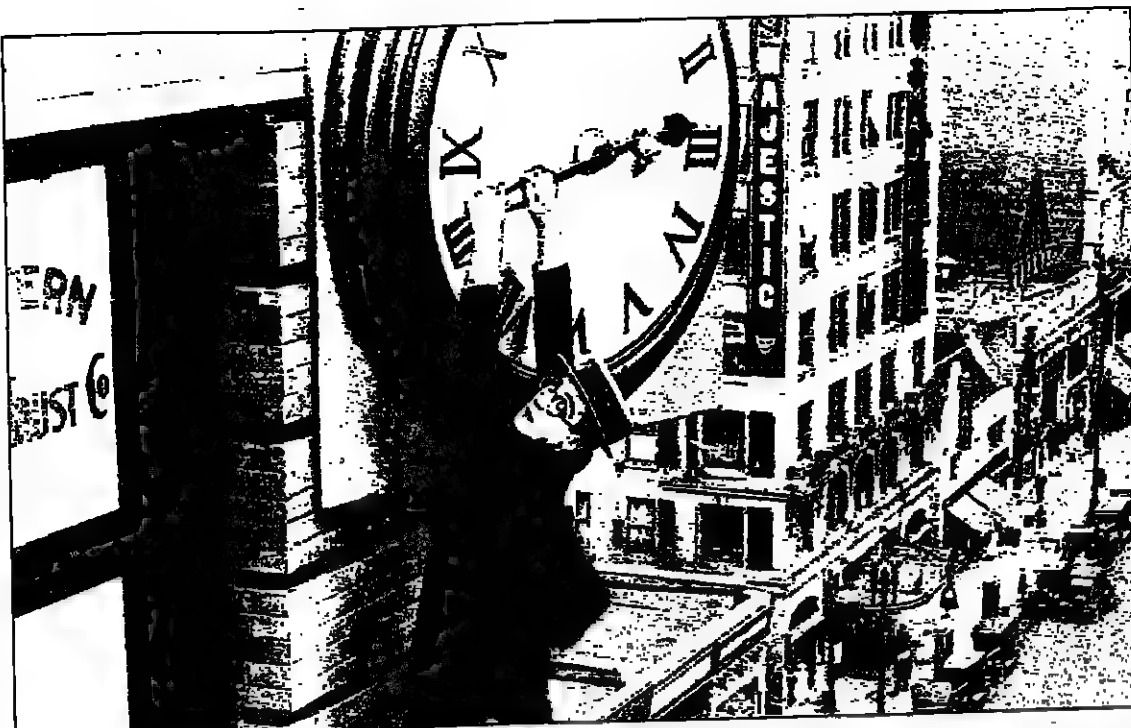
Karen Zagor finds fixed rates for savers while Gavin Lumsden surveys fixed-rate home loans

Investors in a bit of a fix

The stock market's recent gyrations have left investors in a bit of a fix. Equities may be the best home for long-term investments, but few advisers would recommend putting all your money into them at the moment. At the same time, the prospect of a further rise in base rates makes long-term fixed-rate investments less appealing.

For the moment, advisers say there is still room for both in a portfolio, but investments must be chosen with care. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser, said: "The received wisdom is that if rates are going to go up, then fixed-interest products will improve, but there are some good things around at the moment. The trick is to take your own view about where interest rates are going and not to lock in for too long if you expect them to rise again. That way you can take advantage of any future rate rises."

Mr Bolland thinks some of the insurance company guaranteed-income bonds look particularly appealing. Chamberlain de Broe, for example, offers the GE Financial Services guaranteed-income bond with a one-year fixed rate of 6.8 per cent net on deposits of £10,000 and higher. This translates into a gross rate of almost 8.8 per cent. The rate is this high partly because the tax rules allow insurance companies to offer very attractive returns and partly because Chamberlain de Broe reinvests its



commission for the year, raising the net yield from 6.55 per cent.

Colin Jackson, managing director at Baronworth Investment Services, believes that even five years is not too long for a fixed-rate investment, if the return is high enough. Baronworth is also cutting its commission to offer a range of bonds including a five-year

one through Pinnacle Insurance plc with an annual net rate of 7.10 per cent (about 9.22 per cent gross) on investments above £50,000. "It is a good return for what is a very safe investment," said Mr Jackson.

Those with less to invest should consider some of the bank and building society fixed-rate accounts. The

Portman's one year fixed-interest bond pays 7.25 per cent gross (5.8 per cent net for basic-rate taxpayers) on deposits as low as £1,000. Norwich & Peterborough pays 7.20 per cent gross on a minimum of £5,000 fixed for a year and Alliance & Leicester pays 7.10 per cent on the same basis. Escalator bonds, where the amount

of interest increases annually, are another safe option. But do not be blinded by the fifth-year return. According to research by Moneyfacts, the Halifax's stepped-income reserve is one of the best, paying 5.50 per cent gross in year one, 6 per cent in year two, 7 per cent in three, 8.35 per cent in four and 10.60 per cent in the fifth year on investments of £10,000 and higher. This sounds impressive, but the average annual return is 7.49 per cent gross, or 5.99 per cent for a basic-rate taxpayer.

An alternative is Hinckley & Rugby's step-up bond, which locks up your money for just three years and has an average annual payout of 7.5 per cent on a minimum balance of £5,000.

With the stock market still frighteningly high, some advisers see a greater role for gilts. David Kauders, senior partner at Kauders Portfolio Management, said: "Investors should realise yield matters, and not just concentrate on price movements." Mr Kauders thinks that while interest rates may rise in the short term, longer term they will settle below 3 per cent with negligible inflation. He points out that investors with gilts maturing now cannot find new gilts with returns to match their maturing stock. If the trend continues, with gilt prices continuing to rise and yields falling, a 7 per cent yield may look very attractive in ten years.

Sting in the tail when loan expires

With base interest rates at 8.5 per cent and widely assumed to be nearing their peak, homebuyers need to take care when looking for fixed-rate mortgages.

Fixed-rate deals have become a popular way for homeowners looking to stabilise their financial affairs. Borrowers pay a fixed rate of interest on their loan for a specified number of years before switching to the lender's variable rate.

Although it might seem a good idea to fix the rate for as long as possible, in fact timing is crucial. The best strategy is to time the fix so that it expires at a point when interest rates are low or falling. However, forecasting where interest rates will be more than five years hence is almost impossible.

offers a three-year fixed deal at 6.45 per cent. The sting in the tail is that you have to pay its variable rate until 2004. Four years of rate uncertainty might seem a high price to pay for three years of protection, especially when it stops you from going back to the market to shop around. A better deal from the Halifax is its three-year deal fixed at 7.35 per cent with no tie-in.

Another one to be wary of is from Bristol & West which offers 4.99 per cent for just one year with a lock-in until 2002.

Patrick Buntton of London & Country, a mortgage broker, says: "It is better to pay a higher rate in your fixed deal and be free to shop around in a few years time." His favourite is the Portman Building Soci-

ety's

Successor

mortgage

which offers

6.99 per cent

for two

and-half

years (7.3

per cent

APR) with

no lock-in

period

this basis

two-to-three

year

fixed deals

are the most

attractive.

Five-year

fixed

deals also

suffer the

disadvantage

that they will

probably finish

in the year

after the next

general election

when interest

rates are

likely to be

volatile.

However,

borrowers

should not

automatically

opt for the

lowest rate

available.

Lenders who

offer

bargain rates

usually insist

borrowers pay

their variable

rate for several

years after

the fixed period

expires, or

infect a hefty

redemption

penalty, often

equivalent to six

months' payments.

These lock-in

periods often

outweigh the

initial benefit

of the deal.

Halifax, the

country's

largest lender,

for instance

has a one-month

penalty if

you pay off

the loan before

January 2000.

On a typical

£50,000 loan

this rate will

save about

£73 a month

against the

current variable

rate. There is

a £205

arrangement

fee.

If you are

looking to

remortgage,

the Portman

also offers a

7.29 per cent

fix until

October 1999.

This will pay

your legal

and valuation

fees and let you

pay off a quarter

of the loan

in the two-year

period (Contact

01202 292 444).

John Charlton, another

mortgage broker,

has arranged

a four-year

deal with

NatWest fixed

at 6.99

per cent. It will

only charge

a redemption

penalty if

money market

rates fall

below this rate.

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Sting in the
tail when
loan expires

Cleaning up housing soap opera

Various professionals, including solicitors and estate agents, have a vested interest in prolonging the housebuying process. So it is good news that they are now banding together to streamline the procedures and limit the costs (see page 35). They hope to cut the period between offer and completion from a 14-week soap opera, where the threat of being gazumped is a major plotline, into a West End play. A drama, certainly, but one with a happy ending.

Buyers who use the one-stop housebuying shops are less likely to lose the home of their dreams through unnecessary procrastination. But they should not let gratitude for speedy service overwhelm their instinct for caution. Customers of these shops will be offered mortgages and insurance policies from a panel of preferred insurers. Before they buy they should check how these offers



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

compare with the best deals elsewhere, and how much commission is being paid to the shop. The wrong mortgage can be a disaster movie.

Instant turn-off

FORM-FILLING is never fun but the self-assessment tax return would try the patience of even the most fervent devotee of minutiae.

Among the more tedious duties is the need to disclose all of your savings income. Banks and building

societies are legally obliged to send out statements of interest paid and tax deducted. But, in practice, some seem not to bother to do so.

This makes life difficult for prolific carpetbaggers with several dozen accounts who could miss the self-assessment deadline of September 30. Hoping for a windfall, they may receive instead a bill for interest on unpaid tax. But while they scurry to seek out the interest details, they may also find it worth checking what rate their balances are earning.

In the line of duty, I keep accounts at some of the societies with a vocal commitment to mutuality to observe whether they keep their pledge to give value and superior service.

From my mutuality sample, only the Britannia had somehow failed to supply my interest information. Needing these details to polish off my tax form, I called at a branch. In the corner, a poster proclaimed the society's aversion to conversion. At the counter, I discovered that the Britannia's way of showing its concern for members was an instant access rate of 0.10 per cent on a balance of £200. The society had closed the account to new investors but failed to contact existing customers, scoring a low mark for service on my mutuality checklist.

At the Portman £200 earns 5.25 per cent. Presumably the Britannia sees all small savers as carpetbaggers, best deterred by low rates.

Philip Barron says post-Budget premiums have soared for medical insurance

Elderly run back to NHS



In the pink: regular exercise by retired people is the best insurance against needing to call on a health policy

About a third of the 550,000 elderly people covered by medical insurance policies will drop out over the next year, after the Budget abolition of tax relief on private health cover for the over-60s. The removal of tax relief is causing premiums to rise by as much as 30 per cent.

Gordon Brown's decision to end tax relief, designed to save about £140 million, has caused dismay among pensioners, health insurers say. Premium increases take effect on the policy's renewal date. In many cases, the effect of the rise is exacerbated by age-related and inflation increases. Insurance premium tax of 4 per cent also pushes up premiums.

After estimates that up to 100,000 have abandoned their policies to fall back on the National Health Service, Western Provident Association, a medical insurer, said 15 per cent of customers with policies for renewal in July and August had not renewed.

Another 62 per cent had opted for lower-cost reduced cover, choosing to rely more on the NHS, while 23 per cent are considering the options. Other health insurers are less willing to admit they are losing anyone. PPP says news of record waiting lists meant that most of its policyholders were keeping the same level of cover, with the rest opting for lower-cost arrangements.

At Bupa, most over-60s are covered under a policy that allows policyholders to save 28 per cent on their premiums if they accept a £250 excess. A typical customer aged 60-64 who was paying £836 a year with tax relief will now pay £1,086 without the excess and £782 with the excess.

Zig Malendewicz, of Nimis, the financial adviser, was contacted by a man of 70, with a wife two years younger, whose joint renewal premium with Prime Health had risen from

£778 to £1,578. Bupa, the largest name in the health insurance market, said people with age-capped policies, such as those from Exeter Friendly Society, may avoid the age-related element of rises. BCWA, which dropped its age-cap policy some years ago, is reinstating customers who joined before that change and who lost the benefit of age-capping when they switched to take advantage of tax relief.

Insurers are restructuring policies to give older people more options. Some facing renewal have opted to pay more to keep their cover at the same level. Others are scaling their back and the rest are taking an excess and paying part of any claims.

WPA has introduced four policies within which excesses can be chosen to earn discounts. A 60-year-old willing

to pay up to £3,000 of medical bills in any year (WPA pays the rest) could cut a premium of £984.55 before abolition of tax relief to £715.35 for comprehensive cover. Taking "limited liability" for up to £1,000 of bills gives a £975.49 premium. The same person prepared to limit cover to the main conditions that figure prominently in the NHS waiting lists would pay £565.92 with no excess or £509.33 if they are willing to pay £200 of bills. At Exeter Friendly, savings begin with a £100 excess while at BCWA up to 40 per cent can be saved by contributing towards treatment from October 1.

Though tax relief is now gone, it is not all bad. Cash benefits for policyholders who choose to be treated in NHS hospitals, and cover for complementary therapies - omitted from tax-relief policies - can be part of the new policies.

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Other (please state):

Adam Jones on the wisdom or otherwise of 'following the herd'

Momentum theory hangs in balance



Sir Isaac Newton, while noting that fast-moving objects take time to slow down, also observed the forces of gravity

Trading-floor philosophers like pepper their investment theories with scientific evidence. Who better to lend credibility to your argument than Sir Isaac Newton? Such is the case with momentum investment, a school of thought that has long been popular among US professional fund managers. In the United Kingdom, individuals are more likely to be disciples, often without knowing it. They are now being given warning that their approach is becoming increasingly risky. Momentum investment describes the practice of buying into companies that are already rising in market value, on the pseudo-Newtonian premise that fast-moving objects take a while to slow down.

This supposedly means there is time to buy, enjoy some of the price increases and then sell before the stock's charmed run grinds to a halt. It has been likened to jumping on and off a moving train. The underlying quality of the company is often unimportant, overlooked in favour of the sector's prospects or changes in other people's attitudes to the company. It is this that makes momentum investing anathema to the vocal body of "value investors", such as Warren Buffett, the folksy head of the huge Berkshire Hathaway fund in the US. Value investors base their strategy on the strength of the company and often stand alone in their belief in an unfashionable

INVEST A GUIDE BEGIN

— they would say *misunderstood* — share. For momentum investors, if the herd is not there already, the stock is not worth your trouble. Momentum investing has been very popular in the US.

In the UK, a good example of a momentum stock is Lloyds TSB, which has risen almost 99 per cent over the past year. HSBC Holdings rose 82 per cent in the year; Barclays almost 56 per cent; British Petroleum 40 per cent; SmithKline Beecham 40 per cent; Standard Chartered 39 per cent; Glaxo Wellcome 35, and Zeneca 30 per cent.

US Robotics, familiar in Britain as a maker of palmtop computers and modems, was one company whose rapid earnings growth attracted the momentum investors. When it gave warning that this growth was slowing, the value of the shares halved. Timing in momentum investing is everything.

In the United Kingdom, the most obvious momentum stocks of 1997 are in the banking sector, as well as pharmaceuticals and oil. Most rises in individual share prices have been because of general interest in sectors, big companies, or

international companies. Momentum investing still has a stigma in the City, however, and attracts scepticism. One senior pension fund manager says none of the big institutions has been following a momentum strategy deliberately. He says small companies, which may have momentum because of earnings growth, may not have the liquidity to enable investors to get off the train easily.

A momentum investment trust was planned for last year by Thornton Management, but was withdrawn after an ill-timed Wall Street wobble.

Robert Kerr, a market strategist at Nikko Europe, the securities house, says that research has shown that share price surges caused by momentum investment tend to last for about six months. He speculates that this is the amount of time taken for the City herd to get excited about a fast sector, talk it up, get bored and let it fall.

Nikko is warning momentum investors to change to value investment in the current market climate.

In the event of a market correction, stocks that are already out of favour with the market will fall by a smaller amount. Those whose share price has ballooned away from their traditional valuation may have a very unpleasant time indeed.

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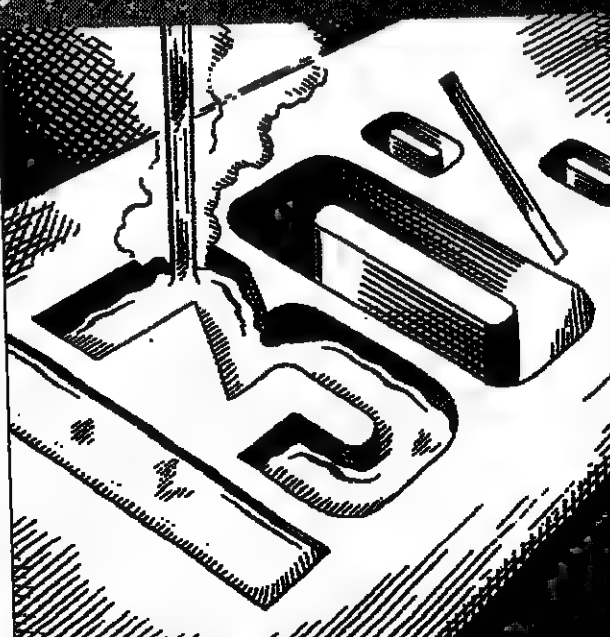
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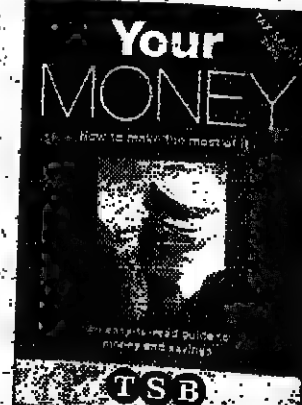
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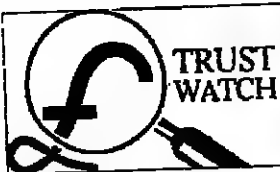
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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Small is becoming beautiful again

Patrick Collinson looks at the recent turnaround in demand for smaller-company shares



Investors in smaller-company unit trusts have reason to feel, hurt. Amid headlines about the stock market boom over the past year, small company trusts are up by, on average, a meagre 1 per cent. Meanwhile the FTSE 100 has raced ahead by nearly 40 per cent.

Smaller-company shares have been unloved and unwanted by the stock market. The main investment action has been in the huge demutualising building societies and insurance companies, with institutional investors scrambling to buy shares in Halifax and Norwich Union.

Sterling's sudden jump in value also hit small companies, leading City analysts to mark down profit estimates. In the words of one investment manager, "an overwhelming bearish psychology has hit smaller companies".

These smaller companies (defined by the City as having a market capitalisation of up to £250 million) have traditionally traded at prices above their larger brethren, in respect of their greater growth prospects. Yet by the end of July they were trading at about 20 per cent below large stocks — the biggest gap in 15 years — on a price earnings basis.

However, there are signs of a rebound. After falling steadily since March, smaller-company shares perked up in

August. One boost has come from a small-fallback in sterling, although it remains high. Another is that smaller companies which do not export but focus on UK markets are enjoying the benefits of windfall spending and general economic strength. The surprises in profits have been on the upside, not the down.

Leading investment management houses are now beginning to take much greater interest in smaller companies, and smaller-company unit trusts are becoming a firm favourite on the buy lists of investment advisers.

Jason Holland, a director of BEST Investment, said: "Quite a few investors have been asking if they should be selling their smaller-company unit trusts. We have been telling people to do quite the opposite — you should be holding or building up your investments in this sector."

Mr Holland recommends the smaller-company unit trusts from Credit Suisse, Invesco, Perpetual, Garmore and Schroders. "A definite pricing gap has opened up between big and small stocks, with the stock market driven

up by big banks, pharmaceuticals and oil companies," Bill Mott, head of equities at Credit Suisse, said. "The rise in the UK stock market has come from a very narrow base of companies. Smaller companies simply haven't participated, and are now looking anomalously cheap. They tend to export a lot of their output and have been hammered by sterling. In my opinion sterling is miles too high, and its strength is only temporary."

Labour's approach to managing the economy — such as the Budget changes to ACT designed to encourage companies to reinvest profits rather than pay out higher dividends — should also benefit smaller companies, he added. "UK plc hasn't got enough quality growth companies, and has not invested enough in research, development and infrastructure. These are just the sort of companies that Gordon Brown is going to encourage," Mr Mott said.

He picks MTL Investments as typical of the sort of company Credit Suisse invests in. "It produces safety devices

which prevent power surges in places such as oil rigs, and exports 90 per cent of its output. It spends a lot on research and development, yet in the past year its shares have halved in value. It is the sort of unloved company that has become very undervalued."

Invesco's Andy Crossley, however, focuses on the opportunities among smaller companies that are more sensitive to growth in the UK rather than exports. One stock that he has invested in is TJ Hughes, the North West department store chain, where he expects consumer spending to push profits much higher than analysts expect.

A wave of takeover activity may also drive up smaller-company share prices, according to John Sweet of Perpetual, who manages £300 million in small-company shares. "If there is an inefficient market in smaller-company shares, as seems apparent, then there will be bids, management buyouts and corporate takeovers from abroad," he said.

Mr Crossley added that takeovers were already going on: "It's a clear indication that corporates are spotting value



Small world: analysts agree that the smaller a company is, the better its chances of weathering market turbulence

that the stock market has not recognised," he said.

All the managers agree that the reasons for investing in a pooled vehicle such as a unit trust or investment trust — reducing risk by holding a diversified portfolio of shares

— are all the stronger when dealing with smaller companies. Mr Mott seeks companies that have products which are not too price-sensitive, are research-driven and sell a high proportion of their output overseas. Mr Sweet

believes in holding a very broadly based range of companies, with proven management quality. A final point made by some is that if the much-heralded stock market crash does come — and recent months have

seen increased market volatility — then investors may be better off in a smaller-company fund. Mr Mott concluded: "If there is a setback, it's much more likely to be among the leaders. Small companies will be relatively unscathed."

WHAT THE FUND MANAGERS THINK OF WORLD MARKETS

Stock markets across the globe have enjoyed a record-breaking year so far. Will they continue to defy gravity or is the much-heralded "correction" around the corner? We asked experts at some of the largest investment management companies in the UK, which handle hundreds of billions of pounds in long-term savings, to forecast how each of the major markets will fare over the next 12 months, given the current crises in the Asian currencies.

GARTMORE:

Manages £59 billion. Stephen Lowe, principal, member Global Policy gp. UK: Cautious. We are concerned about the unbalanced nature of economic growth, with domestic demand growing rapidly but industrial production hardly growing. Given our nervousness on the US market, it is tough to be positive on the UK market. US: Substantially underweight. We're amazed at the height of the market.

Continental Europe: Underweight. We are optimistic on earnings but valuations are high. Japan: Cautiously optimistic. We expect prolonged but sluggish expansion. Pacific Basin: Cautious. The domestic impact of the recent sudden devaluations may be quite severe.

MORGAN GRENFELL ASSET MANAGEMENT:

Manages £82 billion. Greg Fisher, MGA Investment Policy Committee. UK: Market well underpinned. Equities not over-expensive relative to bonds. Although interest rates may rise and the economy slow, the market may be able to offer returns of 5 to 15 per cent in the next six to 12 months. US: High risk. The corporate profits picture is critical. Coca-Cola and Gillette have produced disappointing figures and, if we see more of that, then we could see a 10 to 15 per cent setback. Continental Europe: Overweight.

Much recent stock market growth has been in a narrow focus of stocks. Japan: Underweight. Valuations are still high in an international context. It's hard to be optimistic over the next six to 12 months. Pacific Basin: Underweight. Short-term currency risks, but if the economies sustain 6 to 8 per cent growth, it will feed through to higher profits and higher share prices.

PRUDENTIAL:

Manages £100 billion. Rhys Herbert, chief economist. UK: Relatively optimistic. We are worried about the valuation of some major overseas equity markets so the UK is relatively attractive. US: Relatively expensive. The economic fundamentals are still positive, and the big surprise is the continued outstanding performance on inflation. But there is a risk that growth will be too strong, nudging interest rates

higher. We are cautious. Continental Europe: Slightly underweight. We pared down our overweight position, with Germany and France now looking overvalued. Japan: Moderately overweight. Cheap but on some international indicators the market still looks expensive. Pacific Basin: Neutral. The area's problems are more cyclical than structural and it's not the end of the region's economic dynamism.

CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MANAGEMENT:

UK: Expensive. The market is vulnerable to a tightening of monetary policy, but there are reasons for markets hitting these levels and supporting these valuations. US: Expensive. The economic landscape is pretty benign, to some extent justifying taking asset values higher.

PATRICK COLLINSON

THE WEEK IN MONEY

A REPORT into the pay levels at 75 FTSE 100 companies reveals that most privatised utility bosses are underpaid rather than overpaid.

The study for the Centre for Economics and Business Research, which took into account directors' experience, the company's market capitalisation and their performance in generating shareholder value concludes, that they were paid less than their experience and company performance and size demanded.

Speculation is mounting that the Northern Rock Building Society will increase its share price estimate by 10 per cent or more, resulting in windfall dividends of about £1,600. The company is making its final

preparations for the release of its prospectus next week.

The predicted slump in personal equity plan sales in the wake of the July 2 Budget, has failed to materialise, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF). The Chancellor's announcement that Peps were to be replaced by a new savings vehicle was expected to hit sales badly but net sales of Peps invested in unit trusts, usually the main vehicle, was held up at £540 million in July thanks to building society windfalls and buoyant share prices.

Britain's top companies could face a bill of up to £2 billion for increased pension costs after the abolition of the dividend tax credit to the pension funds in Gordon

Brown's July Budget. According to a leading firm of actuaries, the blow will fall most heavily on companies with big pension schemes such as BT which may need to top up its fund by £166 million. The threat of cash calls from pension fund trustees could push employers to close down their final salary schemes and replace them with lower-quality money purchase schemes.

Swiss Bank Corporation was severely reprimanded and fined a record £480,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority for two serious compliance failures. The SFA added a warning to other securities firms that it would "persistently pursue and judge harshly" similar cases, even if a breach of the rules had not been intended.

Unwanted endowment policy? It could be a gold mine.

Life Policy	Waiting to	Survivor Value	BEALE DOBIE PRICE	DIFFERENCE
20 years	4 years	£20,000	£25,200	£5,200

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to restore pension value

After the abolition of advance corporation tax credits in the Budget, pension funds are expected to grow at a slower pace than they used to.

Depending on individual circumstances, the amount contributed by employees and/or employers may need to be increased by up to 33 per cent to achieve the same pension value.

NatWest Life has produced a free factsheet, *Does Your Pension Still Add Up?*, which explains how pensions will be affected and what you can do to restore the value of your pension, whether you have a personal pension plan or are part of a company pension scheme. The factsheet includes other options for building up your pension provision, such as personal equity plans. Call 0800 252004 for a copy.

New procedures have been introduced for the resolution of disputes in the management of residential property. Leasehold Valuation Tribunals will provide a quicker and simpler option to court proceedings using specialist professional expertise to settle disputes over service charges and insurance to determine challenges on proposed

works and to appoint, if requested, a new manager if the management of the block is unsatisfactory. Eleven LVTs located around England and Wales will be available for business on Monday. A free leaflet published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions provides further information on how the tribunals work, together with the procedures and the costs of application for leaseholders and tenants of flats. For a copy of *Applying to a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal* call 0181-691 9191 (from Monday).

If you are planning to travel abroad by car, Europ Assistance has produced a handy holiday checklist for motorists. The guide includes details of the motoring regulations in countries in Europe, numbers for the emergency services, and reminds drivers to take an international motor insurance certificate (green card), a car registration certificate, a valid driver's licence and, if you are using a company car, a VED form. Copies of the checklist can be obtained by calling 01444 442211.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at August 28, 1997

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*
2 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.85
3 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
3,000	ITF London & Ed	6.30
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.85
4 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
3,000	ITF London & Ed	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
3,000	ITF London & Ed	6.70

* Limited Edition
Source: Chamberlain de Broek 0171-434 4222. Net rates, income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instant Access	Instant	£1	6.50 Y/y
C&G 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	Instant	£1,000	7.00 Y/y
Alliance & Leicester 0845 608 8880	First Class Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.25 Y/y
Abbey National 0800 174635	Bonus Postal	Postal	£25,000	7.38E Y/y

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.80 Y/y
Coverity BS 0345 829829	60 day p	60 day p	£5,000	7.25 Y/y
Northem Bank BS 0800 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55 Y/y
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 120	120 day	£5,000	7.50 Y/y

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)

Sun Banking Corp	01438 74450
Investec Bank (UK)	0171 203 1650
Midland Bank	0800 180160
Melton Mowbray BS	01664 63937

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Credit cards	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 689000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advantage 0800 777770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%N	10.90%N	Nil

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs	with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9968	12.80%N	£183.75	£186.58	
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£186.55	
Alliance & Leicester 0299 626262	13.30%	£187.75	£187.56	

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = no interest free period. E = Rate includes bonus. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01602 500 677)

PIBS

FIXED RATE

Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	118.53	7.882	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.825%	142.81	8.140	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.825%	142.81	8.140	100.13	10,000
Brilliance 13.000%	159.81	8.135	100.42	1,000
Coverity 12.125%	151.30	7.982	100.75	1,000
First National 11.750%	142.26	8.259	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	164.80	8.116	100.23	1,000
Newcastle 10.750%	131.58	8.185	100.52	1,000
Newcastle 12.250%	155.03	8.140	100.45	1,000
Northam Rock 12.625%	154.28	8.183	100.14	1,000
Sidplan 12.875%	158.66	8.115	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE

Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Cheshire (30/09-27/03) 0.4063%	119.00	100.00	1,000	
First Nat (22/09-20/03) 9.12031%	105.00	100.00	1,000	

PIBS = Personal Interest Bearing Shares

Source: ABN AMRO Home Loans - 0171 601 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS

STANDARD CHARTERED SURFACES FROM TURKISH IN ASIAN MARKETS

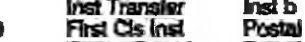


BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01602 500 677)

FTSE 100 PRICE INDEX



Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01602 500 677)

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	5.30	£20-150k	90	Fixed to 1.6.98
0800 291291				
0800 591500				
0800 570800				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths
01189 510100				
0800 555100				
Bank of Scotland	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
0800 291291				
0800 591500				
0800 570800				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths
01189 510100				
0800 555100				
Bank of Scotland	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

Gross rate	At tax rates	Min investment	Notice	Contact		
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000	0645 645000	
Investment A/c	3.80	2.85	20-500	1mth	0645 645000	
Income Bond	6.00	4.80	3,602,000-25,000	3mth	0645 645000	
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3,751,000-20,000	1mth	0645 645000	
44th Issue Cert	5.35		100-10,000	1mth	0645 645000	
Children's Bond	6.75		25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000	
Gen Edt Rate	3.51				0645 645000	
Capital Bonds	5.85	5.32	3.89	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Unit	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pennine Bond	5.70	5.80	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

* 1st ETO (1st pt) of net tax free, first access for up to £100,000. * Personal and family savings for 5 years. * 0.25% net bonus for £20,000 + £100,000 in addition to S1 and S2. * Taxable but credit in full. * £200-100,000 earn higher rates. * Interest rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)

Company	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich Uni	£9,468	£10,476
Equitable LI	£9,534	£10,462
Standard LI	£9,224	£10,316
Stewart	£9,280	£10,315
General	£9,281	£10,301

SINGLE LIFE

Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential	£8,865	£9,673</

Marianne Curphey reports on moves to end gazumping and speed up house sales

From sale to move in six days

Buying or selling a house could take days or weeks rather than months if sweeping changes predicted by mortgage lenders and estate agents take place next year. Even the Law Society, which has resisted change, is now urging solicitors to become involved in setting up "one-stop financial shops" offering legal and mortgage services, valuations and searches. The centres aim to cut drastically the time between making an offer on a house and exchanging contracts, reducing the likelihood of gazumping.

One such group of solicitors in Scotland was yesterday told by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that although it operated a monopoly, it was not doing so against the public interest. The MMC found that the Solicitors' Property Centres, which has branches in England, generally charged lower than average fees. Most

of the big mortgage lenders, including the Halifax and Britannia, are also testing demand for such outlets by opening pilot centres. This week Hambro Countrywide, the biggest estate agency in the UK, announced it was doubling to six the number of one-stop shops and intended by next year to increase its staff to 300. Just days later, a code of practice for estate agents was extended to include small, independent chains as well as large corporate agencies. The voluntary scheme allows people with grievances access to an independent ombudsman. The Government is also looking into the process of house selling to try to find a solution to practices such as gazumping.

Harry Hill, managing director of Hambro Countrywide, said the shops offered a complete conveyancing service for a fixed fee of £350 plus VAT for all properties up to £200,000. Hambro owns such companies as Munn & Co. Taylors, Dixons and Birstow Eves. "We are competing on service, not price," he said. "In other parts of the country you might find a high street solicitor who is cheaper. We are aiming to cut the transaction time to six days, and eventually complete sales on a Saturday or Sunday, which is virtually unheard of. This will mean people do not need to take a day off to move."

The Law Society dismissed Hambro's claims that a house sale should take just six days, saying the deal moved "as slowly as the slowest person in a chain". It also initially expressed concern that an estate agency might act for both buyer and seller, thus threatening the independence of any advice. However, David McNeill, a spokesman for the Law Society, said he had been reassured by new, reputable legal firms such as Everheds and Shoosmiths and Harrison had agreed to join Hambro's scheme. He added: "We would like to see solicitors setting up their own conveyancing centres where people can choose the services or package they prefer."

Mr Hill expressed surprise that legal firms were only now responding in competition. "At present it can take 14 weeks to sort out a sale, during which time prospective buyers drop out. We want to speed this up, and are operating on a no-sale no-fee basis. We will have a panel of preferred mortgage and insurance providers, and can quote removal fees by telephone. I believe this latest development will have the same effect on house buying as Peter Wood made on insurance brokers with Direct Line."

man for the Law Society, said he had been reassured by new, reputable legal firms such as Everheds and Shoosmiths and Harrison had agreed to join Hambro's scheme. He added: "We would like to see solicitors setting up their own conveyancing centres where people can choose the services or package they prefer."

Mr Hill expressed surprise that legal firms were only now responding in competition. "At present it can take 14 weeks to sort out a sale, during which time prospective buyers drop out. We want to speed this up, and are operating on a no-sale no-fee basis. We will have a panel of preferred mortgage and insurance providers, and can quote removal fees by telephone. I believe this latest development will have the same effect on house buying as Peter Wood made on insurance brokers with Direct Line."

University fees threat to first-time buyers

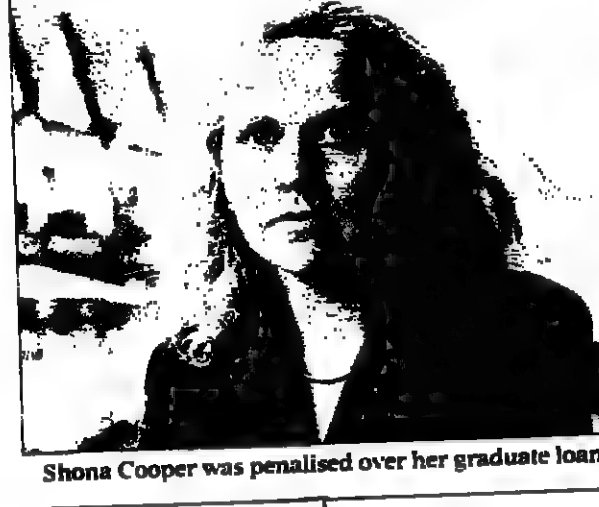
Bank and building society bosses are fond of describing first-time buyers as the "motor of the housing market", essential to any sustained recovery. To their relief, first-time buyers are in optimistic mood. A recent Halifax study showed that such was their confidence in rising prices that they expected to be able to sell their homes and move to higher priced properties in weeks.

However, growing graduate debt, after the introduction of university tuition fees, could discourage those in their twenties from becoming homeowners, with consequences for the values of all properties. Already students are leaving college an average £2,000 in debt. Fees could lift this fivefold. This would be a big blow to lenders, after the recent rise in demand by first-time buyers. In the 12 months to June, 43 per cent of loans went to them, up 5 per cent. Already recent graduates may be finding that their borrowings, though modest, are making it more difficult for them to become homeowners. Shona Cooper, a civil engineer, found herself rejected by Bristol & West's direct mortgage division because she has still to repay £650 of a £1,200 loan from the Government's Student Loan Scheme. B&W declined to process her application, saying

her £20-a-month repayment was a "committed outgoing". It also objected to her having exceeded her £500 overdraft by £5 for a few days. Miss Cooper has a full-time job with prospects at the company that sponsored her through university. She said: "I applied to B&W because I was attracted by a particular offer - a two-year fixed rate at 5.69 per cent. I wanted to borrow £52,000, 84 per cent of the property's value."

After the intervention of The Times, B&W agreed to grant the loan. At Miss Cooper's request, it also waived the £250 arrangement fee. ANNE ASHWORTH

Shona Cooper was penalised over her graduate loan



Branch costs push Halifax way behind the opposition

With much fanfare, the Halifax has now announced new rates for savers, to take effect from Monday. Any increase in savings rates is to be applauded, but the rates are generally not enough to make the Halifax the best home for a saver's money. Rates on most Halifax savings accounts will rise by 0.25 percentage points, mimicking the 0.25 point rise in base rates. This includes the 60-Day Gold account, Matured Tessa 2 and Young Savers accounts. A few, such as accounts over £25,000 in the Solid Gold account and deposits of more than £10,000 and under £25,000 in a Bonus Gold account, are improving by 0.30 percentage points, exceeding the base rate rise. Some, however, such as deposits above £10,000 in the Liquid Gold account, rise by just 0.20 percentage points.

After the changes, savers with £2,500 will get 3.95 per cent in a Liquid Gold account, 4.10 per cent in a Solid Gold account, 4.10 per cent in a 60-Day Gold account and 5.35 per cent in Bonus Gold. A similar amount in an Abbey National Bonus Postal account would earn 6.95 per cent, provided the balance did not fall below £2,000. The Woolwich's

Karen Zagor looks at Halifax's new range of interest rates

Postal 60 would pay 6.40 per cent, on the same balance but allows only one penalty-free withdrawal a year. However, the best instant-access account for deposits of £2,500, according to research by Moneyfacts, remains Cheltenham & Gloucester's Instant Transfer account, which has a new rate of 7 per cent from Monday (up from 6.75 per cent). It is operated by telephone in tandem with your ordinary bank account at any bank. Other attractive new rates are available from the Nationwide, which is offering 6.70 per cent on balances of £5,000, and Coventry Building Society, which pays 7 per cent on balances of £5,000 and above in its First Instant Postal Account. Some of the non-banks are offering very attractive instant-access accounts. Direct Line's rates start at 5.35 per cent for balances as low as £1. Rates rise steadily on amounts above £5,000. The account is

operated by telephone. Sainsbury's Bank pays 6.5 per cent on balances starting at £1. Scottish Widows Bank pays 6.65 per cent on deposits above £500 in its instant-access postal account, with sums above £5,000 earning even more. The account can be operated by telephone. Legal & General's Direct Access postal account pays 6.70 per cent on £2,500, but minimum withdrawal is £500. Part of the Halifax's problem, when it comes to competitive savings rates, is that its accounts are branch-based, rather than postal or telephone-operated. It costs more to run a branch-based service, so consumers effectively pay for the service by receiving lower rates. The Halifax is more competitive on its interest-paying cheque account, which pays 4.6 per cent on £5,000, beating the 4.25 per cent from a competitive product at Bank of Scotland, 2.25 per cent at the Woolwich and 1.98 per cent at Abbey National. However, the Halifax account lags behind the 6.20 per cent paid by Investec Bank (UK) on a similar account, and the 5 per cent on Charterhouse Bank's World Currency instant access account.

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Postcode _____ Signed _____ Date of Birth _____

*Interest will be payable net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%), or subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability, a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic tax bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Interest will be calculated daily, from the day of receipt in the case of cash and from the day of receipt in the case of a deposit by cheque. Proof of identity may be required. One withdrawal each calendar month may be made without charge subject to a minimum withdrawal of £500. A £1 charge will be levied for each subsequent cash or cheque withdrawal transaction made during that calendar month. All withdrawals subject to normal branch daily limits of £500 in cash and £100,000 by cheque. Rates of interest may vary from time to time. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch. Registered Office: Woolwich plc, Watling Street, Berleweth, Kent DA6 7RR. Registered in England no. 2295699

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£10,000 - £24,999	5.95%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.15%
£50,000 - £99,999	6.35%
£100,000+	6.55%

MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	APR
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[illegible]

Equities close off the bottom

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

BANKS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

BREWING, PUBS & REST

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

BUILDING MATERIALS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

ELECTRICITY

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

ENGINEERING

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

CHEMICALS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

INSURANCE

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
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120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

MEDIA

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

MINING

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

MEDIA

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

BRITISH FUNDS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

PRINTING & PAPER

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

PROPERTY

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

RETAILERS, FOOD

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

TRANSPORT

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

WATER

1997	Low	Company	Price	1997	Low	Company	Price
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

RACING: WOODS-TRAINED JUVENILE LOOKS LIKELY SORT FOR DONCASTER'S RACING POST TROPHY

Little Indian braves uphill battle

By CHRIS MCGRATH

IN THE United States, racecourses lack variety. Without hesitation or deviation, horses labour round a treadmill of level, sharp, left-handed circuits. At Sandown yesterday, Little Indian reminded the British racing public of their contrasting good fortune.

The colt's previous race had been over the downhill of Goodwood, where he finished strongly but was still beaten nearly five lengths. In yesterday's Solario Stakes, he faced a much stiffer finish — and that enabled him to get decisively involved, pouncing late up the hill to collar Tracking by half a length. Haami, the favourite, rather wobbled off the bridle and was beaten another two lengths.

Little Indian earned quotes of 3-1 for the 2,000 Guineas and Derby, but the Tote cut Central Park, who had beaten him so emphatically at Goodwood, to 4-1, from 12-1, for the Guineas, though you can still get 14-1 with Ladbrokes. King Of Kings, the most garrulous of talking horses, is now out to 8-1 (with both firms. Sharp Play was second to him at the Curragh two weeks ago, but yesterday beat only one home — and that was Celtic Cava-



Little Indian, right, gets the better of Tracking in a thrilling finish to the Solario Stakes at Sandown yesterday

lier, who happens to be a stablemate of King Of Kings. Ladbrokes took the opportunity to cut Daggers Drawn a point, to 5-1 favourite, after his galloping companion, Tracking, had tried so bravely to make all. He looked like

pulling it off, too, as Little Indian only really found his stride when pulled out inside the last.

Sean Woods, Little Indian's trainer, said: "He does need daylight. At Goodwood, they slowed up and then quick-

ened, but he still made up eight lengths once he got it. It's only been trained by me that allowed him to go off 12-1. John Reid said that he quickened up really well. He is still learning about the job, and is very lazy."

Woods himself may still be learning his own job, but there is certainly nothing lazy about the way he is working his way up the second division of Newmarket's trainers. He made the most of Mistie Cat, and now he has a very sensible

sort of horse for the Racing Post Trophy. Quite a discovery, too — he is by Little Missouri, an American stallion who is thoroughly obscure over here.

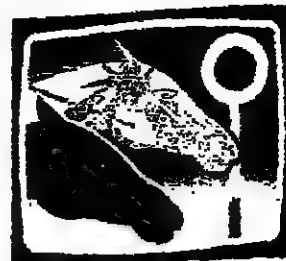
Obscurity looms menacingly for Haami, in whose defence it can at least be said that he was still green. John Dunlop, his trainer, said: "I was frightened about the ground, but would hesitate to use that as an excuse. He came there so easily, but when he was let down — well, he was a total let-down."

The unbeaten Almutawakeel was withdrawn from the Solario, which must have made Frankie Dettori fear that his day was going from bad to worse. He had, in the morning, already lost a £300 deposit for detaining the Jockey Club with a fruitless appeal against the five-day ban he picked up for irresponsible riding at Goodwood last Saturday.

It starts on Monday, but the Italian is doing his best to insure against any loss of momentum in his championship duel with Kieren Fallon. Fallon, one ahead at the start of proceedings, won on Shawm, but his rival promptly retrieved the advantage by completing a 39-1 treble — courtesy of Shaska, Siege Perilous and Azores.

Dragonada can regain winning thread over mile

SANDOWN PARK CHANNEL 4



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: Dragonada looks solid each-way material against some lightly raced and potentially useful fillies who could go off at short prices. Henry Cecil's runner won on the easy ground at Epsom on her seasonal reappearance in June and was far from disgraced in group two company at Newmarket and in a listed race at Salisbury before running out of stamina when second to Dust Dancer over a mile and quarter last time. The step back to a mile on this stiff track should suit.

Dances With Dreams started the season contesting the French Guineas and Oaks, but was disappointing at Chesham in a listed race five weeks ago. Hirasah made light of being out of action for more than a year when winning over course and distance 17 days ago and is open to improvement along with Geoff Wragge's Egoli, who impressed when winning a maiden here on her recent debut.

3.40: Moon Strike, with Frankie Dettori booked, returned a career best effort when winning the Coral Cup at Haydock three weeks ago. Significantly, his two other victories over the past year came on easy ground and stiff tracks (Newcastle and Newmarket), so conditions are ideal today.

However, I just prefer Soviet Leader, who is running for the first time since being gelded. A winner on good to soft ground at Nottingham in the spring, he is well treated at the weights judged on his good third last time behind Danetism at Newmarket and the excellent Royston French claims a useful 3lb.

Toasted, well drawn to stall one, has claims on his third to Faith Alone over course and distance 45 days

ago, but may prefer better ground.

4.10: The blinkered Mengaah fought back well to win at Goodwood last Friday, having been headed a furlong out, and should not be inconvenienced by today's extra quarter mile. Sahr is another who have benefited from the application of headgear, having won his last two starts at Folkestone, including one on easy going. Nichol Fifty should relish the conditions, being by Old Vic, and the extra distance is in his favour after staying on stoutly to claim the spoils at Chester last time.

Royal Castle has been off the course for 80 days but fitness will hopefully not be a problem for this superbly bred colt, who should relish this stamina test. By

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SURVEYOR (2.10 Chester)

Next best: Cease Fire (2.30 Ripon)

Timekeeper (James Willoughby) reported Little Indian (12-1), the Solario Stakes winner, at Sandown yesterday.

Caelion, he is out of Sun Princess, the 1993 Oaks and St Leger winner, and really appreciated the step up to a mile and a half last time after showing plenty of promise in three earlier outings.

4.45: Cugina is arguably the form horse judged on her victory at Chesham on easy ground. However, that came in a fillies' handicap, where she ran in snatches; and today's race looks tougher. Rountaine finished in front of Voila Premiere at Chesham, but the latter was returning after a lay-off and can reverse the placings. Song Of Freedom has yet to encounter going this testing, but the Arabi colt, a half-brother to Singapoli, is progressive and looks worth following after winning at Newbury last time out.

RICHARD EVANS



Cecil: solid chance

SANDOWN PARK

2.00 Planist 3.40 Pelay Grimes
2.35 Fakhr 4.10 Nichol Fifty
3.05 Dragonada 4.45 VOILA PREMIERE (nap)
5.20 Khazmat El Dar

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 GREENBROOK

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Khazmat El Dar

5.20 ENCORE (nap)

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-4-22 GOOD TIMES 74 (20.0.0.0) (14 runners)
Revised number One in handicap. Surfers term (F) — pulled up. U — unseated rider (F) — brought down. S — stepped up. R — refused. D — decelerated. C — changed course. B — broke. W — won. L — lost. P — placed. V — victor. M — minor. E — eye-bled. C — course record. D — distance record. CD —

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 CHIEF BARKERS SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,596 71 10yds) (10 runners)

103 (12) 0-4-22 GOOD TIMES 74 (20.0.0.0) (14 runners)
Revised number One in handicap. Surfers term (F) — pulled up. U — unseated rider (F) — brought down. S — stepped up. R — refused. D — decelerated. C — changed course. B — broke. W — won. L — lost. P — placed. V — victor. M — minor. E — eye-bled. C — course record. D — distance record. CD —

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103 (12) 0-4-22 GOOD TIMES 74 (20.0.0.0) (14 runners)
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3.05 FORD 21 YEARS CELEBRATION ATLANTA STAKES

(Listed race: £11,322: 1m 14yds) (14 runners)
103 (12) 0-4-22 GOOD TIMES 74 (20.0.0.0) (14 runners)
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4.45 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP

(£4,840: 1m 27yds) (20 runners)
103 (12) 0-4-22 GOOD TIMES 74 (20.0.0.0) (14 runners)
Revised number One in handicap. Surfers term (F) — pulled up. U — unseated rider (F) — brought down. S — stepped up. R — refused. D — decelerated. C — changed course. B — broke. W — won. L — lost. P — placed. V — victor. M — minor. E — eye-bled. C — course record. D — distance record. CD —

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Cecil: solid chance

CHESTER

2.10 Jimmy Tote 2.45 Samwar, 3.15 Hunters Of Broom, 3.50 Kuzla, 4.20 Dancing Feather, 4.55 Next Round.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 LINCOLN CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,764 61 10yds) (7 runners)

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3.50 CHESTER RATED HANDICAP

(Listed race: £15,342: 1m 51yds) (11 runners)

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GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

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GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 LINCOLN CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,764 61 10yds) (7 runners)

4.20 ROUSE ROSE MAIDEN FILLES STAKES

(£3,768: 1m 41yds) (5 runners)



Keeping their cool: from the left, Pinsent, Foster, Redgrave and Cracknell will gauge their progress towards the Olympics by their success at the world championships

Crew additions welcomed aboard

Michael Calvin on how the Great Britain coxless four is pulling together in readiness for the world rowing championships

The scene had a haunting beauty, a deceptive tranquillity: a lone boat sliced through the warm, turquoise waters of Lac d'Aiguebelette and into the shadows cast by the low clouds that caressed the limestone cliffs.

The eye was drawn to its white hull and the metronomic efficiency of four men, acting and thinking as one. They relished the anonymity of the moment because the instant they returned to the pine-clad shore, they had to contend with the preceptions of an entire sport.

Only by winning the coxless fours title at the world rowing championships, which begin here tomorrow in the foothills of the Alps, can the team that bears collective responsibility for Steve Redgrave's entry into Olympic history begin to justify itself.

The oppressive pressure of public accountability is familiar to the lives of Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, with whom he has won two of his four successive Olympic titles, but to Tim Foster and James Cracknell, the other members of Great Britain's so-called Fab Four, it is a diverting, entirely new experience.

Rowing may be an esoteric sport, which demands selflessness and suppresses individualism, yet Redgrave's Olympic odyssey into middle age has captured the imagination in a way that has taken the sport out of its natural constituency.

Foster found, to his embarrassment and surprise, that he was recognised when he went to collect his car keys from the local optician. Cracknell admitted, with a mixture of bashfulness and entitlement, that he is becoming accustomed to signing autographs or the first time in his life. "I am trying to pull them back to reality," Redgrave said with a smirk. "The pressure on them is

going to be pretty intense over the next week. They are going to be asking themselves: 'Can I become a world champion?' Max and I are going to be asking ourselves: 'Can we do it again?' There is a big difference in those questions and the significance of the answers."

Yet this, intrinsically, is why he returned to the hair-shirt rituals of dawn alarm calls and uniquely punishing sessions in a tiny gymnasium, suffused by stale sweat, the pungent aroma of untrammeled ambition. There are still days when he hates himself for his obsessive pursuit of perfection, but there are others, such as yesterday, when he is intrigued by the private agonies of expectation.

His mind is set and his body is giving off all the right signs. They have been away from Britain, at altitude, for three weeks. Now they have a reassuring sense of continuity, a sense that, perversely, is a persuasive indication that they have tapered to peak fitness.

Redgrave and Pinsent were the perfect pair, an unbeatable blend of strength and smoothness, aggression and technique. The nature of their work gave the relationship a powerful intimacy. This year two new people, two new personalities, have had to be taken into account. "We are not as close as we were before," Redgrave admitted. Pinsent nodded solemnly, and added: "To an extent our relationship has been defined. We are in the unknown and, deep down, that's why we are doing this."

It has been a voyage of mutual self-discovery. Characters tend to be brought to the surface by

competitive tension and Redgrave is used to Pinsent reacting to himself before an important race when he refuses to eat and tries to sleep. In similar circumstances, Cracknell can be found in a corner, mesmerised by the techno-thrash of the latest Prodigy album on his personal stereo.

Foster, who is attempting to return to Oxford University to take a Masters degree in psychology, is a different animal. "A space cadet," Pinsent observed. "So laid-back he's horizontal." But there is steel there. Foster's Olympic bronze is a campaign medal, a symbol of his survival of a turbulent team built around the Searle brothers.

He treats the casual callousness of celebrity with equanimity and is unmoved by the type of slights crystallised by a magazine headline

that purported to tell the tale of "Redgrave, Pinsent and two other blokes". He smiled at the memory and said: "The hype's not that bad, really. I don't feel twice as strong, twice as alert, just because of who I am rowing with. But I know this week is going to be our biggest test."

The principals in the team are sensitive to the dangers of instant judgments, preconceived notions. But above all they are realists. "We live in a what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world," Pinsent said. "It is inevitable that, as Olympic champions, the onus will continue to be on us. This team is evolving, but the only real way we will be accepted as a four is to win in Sydney."

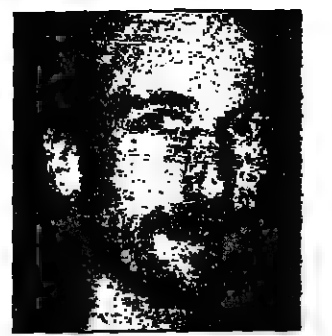
The Millennium Olympics are, to most, still a mirage, but to Redgrave, who will be seeking an unprecedented tenth leading championship title here, they have a chilling clarity. His mental preparation for the Olympic final in 2000 began the instant that he decided his life needed the focal point offered by his sport.

This world championship is just a stepping stone, a form guide to what is going to happen in three years' time," he insisted. "To an amateur athlete, the Olympics are the ultimate. They are the only reason to go on. That was a big decision for me, but really everything has panned out as expected. The only thing I want to do here is prove to myself what I am capable of achieving."

With that, he wandered off, to prepare the boat for another training session. The sun was lower and the colours from the hillside were richer, but the style, as they eased out towards the centre of the lake, was still the same. It was human harmony, poetry in motion. A set of champions in action.

Three will share taste of summer

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

AND so the long summer comes to an end. Our revels are all ended. The spiritual Ashes remain as ever in Australia, as the physical Ashes stay at Lord's. The year is turning — but wait! There is one further rite of summer to be enacted before the panama is once again consigned to the hat-rack of history. The Nicolas Feuillatte Shane Warne Fizzometer has finally come to rest at the figure of 24.

Before the summer began, I asked the faithful readers of this column to predict the number of Test-match wickets that Warne would take in the course of it. Old Fatface was back, aka the Portly Sadist, the blood of the readership was stirred by the challenge and shaken by the prize on offer of the ambrosial Nicolas Feuillatte champagne.

Three readers hit the bulls-eye of 24, three more had 25 and yet another three 23. Congratulations and greetings and also a magnum of the aforementioned fizz, to the bulls-eye-hitters, these being Geoff Bennett, Rory Brockbank and Norman Philpot. Greetings and lukewarm congratulations, and also a normal-sized bottle of champagne, to the near-missers — C Howard, A.C. Cooke, Richard Stenning, V.R. Cadman, Irene Brennan and Jasper Sabey.

Many thanks and commiserations to everybody else who entered, especially to the gentleman who predicted that the Fizzometer would come to rest at 77. Farewell summer!

Oh dear, Diego

When it comes to self-inflicted wounds, then Diego is a self-made Saint Sebastian. Diego was, last Sunday, taking part in Boca Juniors' 4-2 defeat of Argentinos Juniors afterwards, he was asked to submit to a drugs test. Naturally, he was bitter about the indignity, but he was not worried, he said. He had taken a drugs test of his own volition that morning and had tested negative. Alas, his confidence was misplaced. Traces of cocaine were found in the urine: it was the third time that he has failed a drugs test. Mauricio Macri, the Boca president, said: "Maradona has failed himself more than the Boca team."

Cost of living

When Kevin Garnet was offered \$103.5 million to play basketball for the Minnesota Timberwolves, it was a record offer. It now stands as a new record: the highest-ever refusal. Garnet would have made \$210,000 a game, which is not bad,

but not good enough. After all, Garnet is 20 and people that age tend to have expenses to meet.

Out of synch

The loneliness of the long-distance runner has nothing on the problem of the alienation of the male synchronised swimmer. Bill May, one of two male synchro swimmers in the United States, has been making waves. He began his competitive career two years ago and was regarded as a joke — but now he is getting rather too good for the sport's comfort. He is, in fact, redefining it, by adding the element of power. "He looks like a hurricane in the pool," Linda Witter, the Ohio state coach, said. Donn Squire, an official, said: "I don't think the synchronised swimming community likes him being here. He's breaking down a lot of barriers that people don't want broken." Sports Illustrated points out that, while he was scoring 89, other top performers were getting scores in the mid-nineties. Life is always hard for the trail-blazers.

Book of woe

The strange, rather sad and very bitter row in cricket magazines continues. David Frith, Anglo-Aussie, former editor of *The Cricketer* magazine and founder as well as former editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, has written a book, *Caught England. Bowled Australia: A Cricket Slave's Complex Story*. Both magazines have declined to review the book, which represents something of a wind-double — the book is critical of both mags. Frith, who called the challenge that his book represents to *WCM* as "a test of their manhood", has now resigned as the magazine's obituary editor — the consolation prize he was given when removed as editor — and will not now write for them on any other topic. *WCM* says it will not be drawn into a slanging match.

Mistaken identity

The Brazilian team, Botafogo, have been touring Spain and getting some disappointing results. It turns out that they have an excuse — they are imposters. They were beaten 6-0 by Salamanca, lost 2-0 against Logroñés, of the second division, and scraped a 2-2 draw with the third division club, Lorca. Then it was discovered that the real Botafogo had not actually left Brazil. The phoney Botafogo have vanished into the night.



Daunting Lady appeals

By OUR RACING STAFF

WELVE two-year-olds attempt to give Britain fifth victory in eight runnings of the atterfalls Curragh Stakes at the Curragh today. The £150,000 event is restricted to orsen brought at last September's Tattersalls atterhouse Sales.

Richard Hannon, successful last year with his Stammer, runs Daunting Lady and Another Fantasy. Hannon has also sent out Key To Million, Pelham and Verne Hoomer to be laced in the last three runnings. Mick Hannon, who won with Affair Of State in 1991, represented by Honey Storm and Stately Finches.

CURRAGH FIELD

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

3.55 TATTERSALLS BREEDERS' STAKES (2-Y-O: £73,500: 6f) (30 runners)	C4
1. 3402 BALLA SOLA 20 W P Adams 8-10	P J Scudliff 17
2. 3402 BLACK ROCK CITY 7 E Lyons 8-10	H B McCullagh 17
3. 3402 BOUT STANLEY 14 W P Adams 8-10	J A McHugh 17
4. 3402 CANNIBAL 20 W P Adams 8-10	F M Barry 17
5. 3402 CHALLENGER 20 W P Adams 8-10	G Cullen 17
6. 3402 DELICIOUS 18 W P Adams 8-10	J Collins 17
7. 3402 GOLD RAINBOW 5 A P O'Brien 8-10	—
8. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
9. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
10. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
11. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
12. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
13. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
14. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
15. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
16. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
17. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
18. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
19. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
20. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
21. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
22. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
23. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
24. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
25. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
26. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
27. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
28. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
29. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17
30. 3402 LADY OF THE LAKES 10 W P Adams 8-10	R M Butler 17

6-1 Hannon 20, 7-1 Hannon 20, 8-1 Hannon 20, 9-1 Hannon 20, 10-1 Hannon 20, 11-1 Hannon 20, 12-1 Hannon 20, 13-1 Hannon 20, 14-1 Hannon 20, 15-1 Hannon 20, 16-1 Hannon 20, 17-1 Hannon 20, 18-1 Hannon 20, 19-1 Hannon 20, 20-1 Hannon 20, 21-1 Hannon 20, 22-1 Hannon 20, 23-1 Hannon 20, 24-1 Hannon 20, 25-1 Hannon 20, 26-1 Hannon 20, 27-1 Hannon 20, 28-1 Hannon 20, 29-1 Hannon 20, 30-1 Hannon 20.

Lord Of Men leads Deauville team

ORD OF MEN, trained by Ian Gosden and ridden by Frankie Dettori, Composester Chapelle-Hyam (Olivier Peslier) and Taipan (John Molloy) can complete a British clean sweep in the group three 617 Grand Prix de Deauville tomorrow. They are just one local rival, Iquette Head's African (Olivier Peslier), who has beaten in listed company time out.

Lord Of Men, who missed a season because of injury, is unbeaten in his last six starts. He will be attempting to score a swift double at the track, having made all to land the group three Prix Guillaume d'Ornano over ten furlongs two weeks ago.

Taipan and Composester will relish the testing ground. Taipan has not run since finishing a creditable third to Shantou in the Princess Of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket, while Composester disappointed in the Lancashire Oaks but had earlier landed the group three Prix Corrida in Lyon.

Peslier and Chapelle-Hyam team up again with Woodland Melody, among a field of six for the group three Prix du Calvados over seven furlongs. Woodland Melody retained her unbeaten record with a last-start win in a listed race at Sandown last month.

Criqueuse Head's Pas De Repose (Dolceux) runs for the first time since taking fourth in the 1,000 Guineas when she contests the group three Prix de Meautry over six furlongs. Joy Naughton's Hever Golf Rose and Richard Hannon's Brave Edge are in opposition.

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.30 Special Fare, 3.00 Karinka, 3.35 Summerhill Special, 4.05 Salernino, 4.40 Birm Gardens, 5.10 Rock Symphony.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Arletty.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £32,240: 6f) (21 runners)

1. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
2. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
3. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
4. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
5. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
6. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
7. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
8. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
9. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
10. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
11. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
12. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
13. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
14. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
15. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
16. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
17. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
18. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
19. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
20. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
21. 3402 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12

5-2 Duff 10, 6-1 Duff 10, 7-1 Duff 10, 8-1 Duff 10, 9-1 Duff 10, 10-1 Duff 10, 11-1 Duff 10, 12-1 Duff 10, 13-1 Duff 10, 14-1 Duff 10, 15-1 Duff 10, 16-1 Duff 10, 17-1 Duff 10, 18-1 Duff 10, 19-1 Duff 10, 20-1 Duff 10, 21-1 Duff 10.

3.00 MOORLAND POULTRY FILLIES HANDICAP (3.5.15: 1m 20f) (11)

1. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
2. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
3. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
4. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
5. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
6. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
7. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
8. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
9. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
10. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
11. 2120 DORILLA 14 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5

7-2 Hannon 10, 8-1 Hannon 10, 9-1 Hannon 10, 10-1 Hannon 10, 11-1 Hannon 10, 12-1 Hannon 10, 13-1 Hannon 10, 14-1 Hannon 10, 15-1 Hannon 10, 16-1 Hannon 10, 17-1 Hannon 10, 18-1 Hannon 10, 19-1 Hannon 10, 20-1 Hannon 10, 21-1 Hannon 10.

3.35 CROWTHER HOBBS HANDICAP (3.3.40: 1m 4f) (8)

1. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
2. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
3. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
4. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
5. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
6. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
7. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
8. 6100 AL'S ALBI 10 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5

3-1 Top, 4-1 Hannon 10, 5-1 Hannon 10, 6-1 Hannon 10, 7-1 Hannon 10, 8-1 Hannon 10, 9-1 Hannon 10, 10-1 Hannon 10, 11-1 Hannon 10, 12-1 Hannon 10, 13-1 Hannon 10, 14-1 Hannon 10, 15-1 Hannon 10, 16-1 Hannon 10, 17-1 Hannon 10, 18-1 Hannon 10, 19-1 Hannon 10, 20-1 Hannon 10, 21-1 Hannon 10.

4.05 RIPON HORN BLOWER CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,339: 5f) (8)

1. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
2. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
3. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
4. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
5. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
6. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
7. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5
8. 0116 ATLANTIC WING 35 (D) M Jenson 8-12	H B McCullagh 5

4.40 BERNADETTE MCWILLIAMS MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES (3.5.50: 1m 20f) (10)

1. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
2. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
3. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
4. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
5. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
6. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
7. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
8. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
9. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12
10. 452 IMPERIAL'S GOLD 12 E Lyons 8-10	A McHugh 12

5.10 BARBARA CUNNINGHAM & MIDDLEHAM PARK AUCTION STAKES (2.6.00: 6f) (24)

1. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
2. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
3. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
4. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
5. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
6. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
7. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
8. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
9. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
10. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
11. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
12. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
13. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
14. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
15. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
16. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
17. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
18. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
19. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
20. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
21. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
22. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
23. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5
24. 0110 PURPLE FLAME 11 (D) J Lee 5-11	H B McCullagh 5

7-1 Hannon 10, 8-1 Hannon 10, 9-1 Hannon 10, 10-1 Hannon 10, 11-1 Hannon 10, 12-1 Hannon 10, 13-1 Hannon 10, 14-1 Hannon 10, 15-1 Hannon 10, 16-1 Hannon 1

TENNIS

Henman brought down to earth by South African

FROM DAVID POWELL IN NEW YORK

IN much the same way that Tim Henman produced a thrilling victory over a high seed at Wimbledon, only to lose in the next round against an unseeded opponent, the British No 2 went out in the second round of the United States Open here at Flushing Meadows yesterday. He was beaten in straight sets by Wayne Ferreira, from South Africa, having put out Thomas Muster, the fifth seed from Austria, in the first round.

Ferreira won 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in the 33min. Having beaten Richard Krajicek, the defending champion and No 4 seed at Wimbledon, Henman was put out in the quarter-finals by Michael Stich, from Germany. Then, as now, Henman won only nine games, playing as inexplicably poorly as he did yesterday.

Henman's nadir was the second set in which he lost five games to love. Against Muster he had combined efficient service, crisp volleying and dexterity of touch but here he sprayed errors from every angle. A rain break, when Henman was two sets and 3-1 down, proved only a short delay to Henman's ignominious departure.

Greg Rusedski had fewer problems during his win over Ferreira's compatriot, Marcos Ondruska, on Thursday night. The small band of British supporters cheering him on could not be heard beneath the collective din of a blight out of nearby La Guar-

dia airport and a train rattling by on the Long Island railroad. Rusedski, though, remained oblivious to the noise. As the South African served, the British No 1 struck a stinging return that did not come back. Point to Rusedski who, by now, was beginning to run away with the match. "I did not hear it that much," Rusedski said of the din. "I am not letting outside distractions bother me."

Twelve months ago Rusedski was eliminated in the first round for the third successive year. The combination of the improvement in his game and the upgrading of the national tennis centre have spirited Rusedski into the third round. The venue, once despised by the majority of players, is more agreeable now. "You do not feel as claustrophobic," Rusedski said. "I never really enjoyed coming to the Open, but I think I am changing things this week."

According to the rankings, Rusedski should progress untroubled into the last 16. His next opponent is Jens Knippschild, from Germany, 22, who ranked 100th, is 80 places lower than the Briton. This year is the first in which Knippschild has qualified for grand-slam tournaments and he has yet to progress beyond

the third round in any of them. However, Knippschild's victory over Henman in the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's, before Wimbledon, ensures that Rusedski is alert to the German's capabilities, although this will be their first meeting.

Rusedski has yet to drop a set. He defeated Ondruska 7-6, 6-4, 6-1, having eliminated David Wheaton, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 1991, in the first round. Serving 21 aces, Rusedski overwhelmed Ondruska after the South African had shown some resistance in the first set.

Playing under floodlights on court No 4, Rusedski took a while to warm-up. Rain had caused play to begin five hours late and, by the time the Briton appeared, he had been waiting in the grounds for nine hours. He secured the opening set at his first opportunity, putting away a high volley. Ondruska stared at Rusedski in disbelief when the Briton served a third successive ace in the second game of the second set to lead 4-0. However, Rusedski made a meal of the game, conceding two points feebly before clearing his plate with a fourth ace.

Ondruska was unable to hold his service in the fifth game, which cost him the set. The Briton raced through the third without dropping a point on his service.

Samantha Smith, the only British woman in the tournament, was crushed 6-1, 6-0 in the second round by Conchita Martinez, the No 7 seed, from Spain. The most absorbing feature of the women's singles during the evening session was the way in which Mirjana Lucic, from Croatia, overwhelmed Aubrie Rippner, a Californian, 6-0, 6-1.

Lucic, 15, is the youngest player in the women's singles, though she appears much older, perhaps 19 or 20. Strikingly similar to Steffi Graf in appearance and power, she faces Jana Novotna, from the Czech Republic, for a place in the last 16.

Novotna, who took Martina Hingis to a deciding set in the Wimbledon final this year, went to watch Lucic play to sample what she might be up against, her need for attention to detail all the more important for the fact that she has played little since Wimbledon due to injury. Call it precocity, or call it confidence, but Lucic said that she was not bothered in the least that Novotna had been spying on her.



Rusedski gives a backhand return close attention during his second-round victory over Ondruska

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Packers prepare to repel challengers

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE annual competition to reach the event that has, in recent years, become one of the most foregone conclusions in sport, begins tomorrow when the National Football League (NFL) season kicks off. Twenty-two weeks later, on January 25 in San Diego, the National Football Conference (NFC) champions will, in all probability, defeat the American Football Conference (AFC) champions in Super Bowl XXXI.

Most likely to be celebrating for the second successive season are Green Bay Packers, who after winning the Vince Lombardi trophy in 1997 and 1998, waited 29 years to regain it. If training-camp talk of an unbeaten season is to be believed, the Packers are in no mood to relinquish it. Brett Favre, the quarterback, is the most compelling reason to back them.

Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers are not the NFC powers of recent years and, although always play-off contenders, are less likely than Carolina Panthers, an expansion team in 1995 but NFC championship game losers in 1996, to run the Packers close.

Dallas have gone through a particularly troubled pre-season off the field, the arrest of Barry Switzer, the head coach, for attempting to board a plane while carrying a loaded gun, being the lowest point. Nevertheless, their game in Pittsburgh tomorrow, a repeat of Super Bowl XXX, is the pick of the opening day, as Dallas victory would go some way to restoring morale.

If there is an AFC team that can redress the imbalance, it is unlikely to be New England

Patriots, the runners-up last year, a tough schedule and the departure of Bill Parcells, the head coach, to their division rivals, New York Jets, will probably prove too much.

The two most potent challengers to the NFC monopoly are led by veterans constantly trying to lose the title "best quarterback never to win a Super Bowl": John Elway, whose Denver Broncos peaked too soon last season and had nothing left when it counted against Jacksonville in the play-offs, and Dan Marino, of Miami Dolphins.

In a pre-season game between the teams in Mexico City, the 37-year-old Elway, a three-time Super Bowl loser, tore a bicep muscle and is struggling to be fit for the opening of the season, but may be able to give his arm more rest during games than hitherto: the emergence of Terrell Davis as one of the league's best running backs means that stopping Elway is no longer a guarantee of stopping Denver.

Miami, in the second year of a rebuilding process under Jimmy Johnson, the former Dallas head coach, also expanded their ground game last year, through their rookie running back, Karim Abdul-Jabbar, and will have an easier schedule, having finished fourth in the division last time. However, the development of the team has not yet reached a point where it matches Marino's urgency to win the big one.

Whether Miami, Denver or outsiders such as Seattle win the AFC, though, the odds — and the Packers — say that they are playing for second place.



Harrington scratches his head in disbelief after sinking another long birdie putt

Pollard returns to the fore

BY MEL WEBB

IN HIS salad days in the Seventies Eddie Pollard was a free spirit, a man who believed in touch and flair on the golf course, and filling the cup of life to the brim off it. Less than a year ago, though, he feared that his ability to strike a ball properly had gone forever. Now, thanks to spare-part surgery, he is smiling again.

That smile broadened yesterday when he took the lead, with a six-under-par 66, in the Motor Seniors Classic at Goodwood Park. The former Ryder Cup player was forced out of golf for 6½ years with crippling rheumatoid arthritis in most of the joints on his left side.

Pollard was ready to accept that his ambition to play on the PGA European Seniors Tour when he passed 50 in

June would never be realised. Not so.

What appeared to be virtually Pollard's last chance came last February when his left elbow and thumb were rebuilt in a long and difficult operation.

Pollard says that he is now beginning to hit the ball properly again. Beginning? If he ever gets it right, most of the others might as well go home and leave him to it.

He had six birdies — and no bogeys — as he took a one-stroke lead over Deray Simon, with Randall Vines on 69 and five players on 70. Tommy Horton, the tournament favourite, struggled to a 75 as the wind strengthened in the afternoon.

"I know what José María Olazábal must have gone

through when he had all the trouble with his feet," Pollard said. "I thought I would never play again, either. I'm really happy to be out here — today was a bonus."

It was Pollard's best round since joining the seniors' ranks, and one that he has been threatening to produce for some time. His one weakness had been inaccuracy off the tee, but even that has been fixed by replacing the shafts in his clubs. Another transplant, another cure.

"They felt heavy and stiff," he said. "Now they feel just right. I'm not sure how the new shafts are helping. To be honest, I think most of my problems were between the ears — I was starting to think I had arthritis in my head as well as everywhere else."

McGregor holds last medal chance

GREAT Britain's only hope of winning a medal at the world track cycling championships in Perth, Australia, rests with Yvonne McGregor in the 3,000 metres pursuit, which begins today. McGregor has already beaten Antonella Bellutti, of Italy, the Olympic champion, this season.

Britain's men failed to qualify for the last eight of the 4,000 metres team pursuit yesterday when Rob Hayles was lost to the four-man squad after only 600 metres of their qualifying round. Hayles's front wheel was overlapped by the rear wheel of Bryan Steel, then riding in third position, and, in trying to extricate himself, Hayles lost contact.

Marshall falls in Hong Kong

SQUASH: Brett Martin, the No 10 seed, of Australia, produced a surprise result in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open by beating Peter Marshall, of England, 17-14, 11-15, 15-9, 15-7 in 56 minutes. Martin exposed Marshall's stamina problems, caused by suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome for two years. Martin now meets Jansher Khan, who looked patchy beating Martin Heath, of Scotland, 15-10, 15-12, 15-11.

Test rivalry to resume

CRICKET: India and Pakistan have agreed to resume Test match tours after an eight-year suspension of fixtures between the two countries. The resumption will initially be at A-team level with a three-match series next winter. "Both India and Pakistan are keen to revive the Test series and the cricket boards have agreed to resume reciprocal tours," Jaywant Lela, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said.

Price is right

BOWLS: Mary Price, of England, and Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, picked up three wins apiece yesterday to stretch their unbeaten runs to five in the battle for the singles title at the Atlantic Rim championships at Llandrindod Wells. Price and Johnston, who leads the round-robin table on shot aggregate, will meet in the eighth round of matches in an encounter that could prove to be a title decider.

Cavalleri impresses

GOLF: Silvia Cavalleri, winner of the US women's amateur championship, took a significant step towards retaining her European individual title as she stood head and shoulders above her rivals in the wind at Formby yesterday. The diminutive 24-year-old Italian posted a highly impressive 70, two under par, to go to the top of the leaderboard with a 145 total, four strokes ahead of Karine Icher, of France.

GOLF

Rider to Cup debate added by Harrington

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MUNICH

THERE have been few responses to pressure as courageous as Padraig Harrington's in the BMW International Open here. After the European Open in Dublin last week, when it looked as though Harrington had lost a realistic chance of making his debut in the Ryder Cup next month, he flew to Munich and yesterday played one of the outstanding rounds of the year.

It was a round that bears out the old saw that golf is played largely between the ears and it moved Colin Montgomerie to generous praise. "He did a hell of a job today," Montgomerie said of Harrington's 64, which has given the Irishman a one-stroke lead as he strives to gain a place in Severiano Ballesteros's Europe Ryder Cup team against the United States next month. "I hope he can continue."

Harrington and his partners, Mark James and Thomas Bjorn, were a cumulative 23 under par and were the centrepiece of a dazzling second round, when the scoring was as good as the weather was bad. Amid rain, wind and even a feeble ray of two of sunshine, most of those in competition for Ballesteros's team demonstrated immense resolve. This must have been heartening to the captain, who was to be seen in the mid-afternoon with a slight smile on his face as he paced around a room in front of a massive scoreboard.

Just as Justin Leonard's victory in the Open Championship was compelling because of the authoritative way that he claimed the prize, so it was heartening for Europe's chances at Valderrama next month to see so many men able to play outstanding golf when it was most needed.

For example, James, who is seventeenth in the Ryder Cup points table, had a 64. James, 43, has appeared in seven Ryder Cups and is anxious for one last hurrah. A round containing nine birdies was an obvious expression of his serious intent, though it was almost certainly too little, too late. So was the 66 by Sam Torrance, the old trumper, whose only chance now is to be selected by Ballesteros.

Torrance's love affair with the biennial competition goes back to Walton Heath in 1981, when he hit the first stroke of the match on his debut. "The dream's over," Torrance growled, knowing that he had missed the cut. "But at least I gave it a good shot."

A 65 by Bjorn, ninth in the table, silenced the siren voices that had been wondering whether the Dane had a right to be in the kitchen when the heat was at its most intense. "I needed to do something today, and I did," the 26-year-old, who is 11 under par, said.

Costantino Rocca, needing to protect his eighth place in the table, recovered from a disappointing start to come home in 31, five under par, and make sure that he did not miss the halfway cut. This was the prospect that faced José María Olazábal, who had been five under par after his first round and could not improve in the second. The cut fell at five under, the lowest ever in Europe, so Olazábal survived by the slenderest margin.

Paul Broadhurst, in thirteenth place, did himself no harm with a 67, produced under the eye of Ballesteros. He is nine under par. Peter

Great Britain and Ireland leaders listed

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: 130: P. Harrington 64, 64; 131: F. Tennard (Fri) 62, 69; 132: S. James (Wed) 64, 67; 133: C. Montgomerie 65, 67; 134: T. Bjorn (Sun) 68, 66; 135: J. Leonard (Sun) 68, 66; 136: P. Broadhurst 69, 66; 137: R. Rocca 69, 66; 138: M. James 70, 64; 139: W. Westwood 70, 64; 140: R. Ballesteros 70, 65; 141: M. O'Rourke 70, 65; 142: J. P. Mackenzie 70, 65; 143: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 144: P. Lawrie 70, 65; 145: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 146: P. Broadhurst 70, 65; 147: M. O'Rourke 70, 65; 148: J. P. Mackenzie 70, 65; 149: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 150: P. Lawrie 70, 65; 151: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 152: P. Broadhurst 70, 65; 153: M. O'Rourke 70, 65; 154: J. P. Mackenzie 70, 65; 155: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 156: P. Lawrie 70, 65; 157: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 158: P. Broadhurst 70, 65; 159: M. O'Rourke 70, 65; 160: J. P. Mackenzie 70, 65; 161: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 162: P. Lawrie 70, 65; 163: J. C. Burke 70, 65; 164: P. Broadhurst 70, 65; 165: M. O'Rourke 70, 65; 166: J. P. Mackenzie 70, 65; 167: J. 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Sevens specialist widens his horizons

— and if he can't translate the skill he shows at seven to the 15-a-side game, then that's the fault of the coach — which puts me under fire." Dwyer said. "If you can play one, you can play the other."

Serevi took to rugby, as so many Fijians do, in pick-up games at a school in Suva, where he was born in 1968, one of three brothers and two sisters. Drive around the islands and you cannot avoid seeing barefoot youngsters with an old ball but, whereas many grow to graze the willow height, Serevi remained on the short side: when he toured Britain in 1989 with the national side he was programmed at 5ft 3in, though he now reckons to stand 5ft

"Even the New Zealanders complained about the cold then," he said. "I hope it's not always like that." So, now, will his two daughters, Una, three, and Astinate, two, who will join Serevi and Kara, his wife, within the next two months. Kara must first complete a tour of duty with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Sinai, where she is a welfare officer attached to a military hospital, before the family is reunited in the homely surroundings of Ralleston, a village some ten miles east of Leicester.

By then Serevi will hope to have washed his wand, not only as a scower of sins, but as a purveyor of opportunity. "I know I will be heavily marked, but that should leave space for someone else," he says and smiles the smile of a man confident of his own ability. Unlike the mono, Leicester will not be the same this season.

Bradford's hopes of completing the season undefeated were ruined by Wigan's victory at Odsal last Monday. Playing London, away, is potentially an even harder task and they may now lack the incentive to repeat the victory that they achieved in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at the Stoop in February.

In the Heineken Cup.

Chrysalis hope to secure a deal until October after the pool matches in the Midlands Cup.

against unchanged opponents.

ran Belgium 6-1.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY


ARSENAL
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
 Today, 3.0


Oliver Holt
The wags are saying that at their present rate of scoring, Dennis Bergkamp may beat Ian Wright to Cliff Bastin's club record but there are no prizes for guessing who will be at the centre of attention in North London today when these teams meet at Highbury.

The record is one thing, and only a fool would bet against Wright, with his sense of melodrama and occasion, snatching the two goals that he needs to surpass Bastin's record against Arsenal's fiercest rivals. But after the postmatch fracas at Filbert Street, Wright will be the focus of heightened interest for the wrong reasons again at Highbury.

He dominated the thoughts of the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, yesterday and is bound to get a rapturous reception from the home fans. The Spurs supporters and possibly some of their players, though, may feel it is a fine time to try to unsettle him.

If they do not succeed, an Arsenal team with Wright and Bergkamp functioning at the top of their form should be too much for Gerry Francis's side, who are still finding their feet and adjust-

ing to the signings of Les Ferdinand, David Ginola and José Domínguez.

Bergkamp has been irresistible in all Arsenal's games this season, a model of creativity and of devastating finishing, and with Marc Overmars gradually finding the confidence to run at full backs and destroy them with his pace and Patrick Vieira, another of the Filbert Street miscreants, raiding from midfield, Arsène Wenger's team are likely to rip through Tottenham's shaky back line.

That might be strengthened by the addition of Sol Campbell, who will have a late fitness test today on the injured knee that he damaged against West Ham United two weeks ago. The test will decide not only whether he starts the game but also whether he is retained in the England squad. If he fails it, Gary Mabbutt may return to the starting line-up.

Ramon Vega is still out, though, and Colin Calderwood misses the game through suspension, absences that should seal Tottenham's fate.

In attack, Domínguez, the Portuguese who made such a big impression on his debut against Derby County, will also have a late fitness test but David Ginola is ruled out by injury, which may mean another chance for Ruel Fox, who scored Tottenham's winner against Aston Villa on Wednesday.

ARSENAL (probable: 4-4-2): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, S. Bould, G. Gervinho, N. Winterburn — R. Parfitt, P. Vieira, E. Pele, M. Overmars — I. Wright, D. Bergkamp.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable: 4-4-2): J. Walker — S. Carr, J. Scott, S. Campbell, J. Edwards — J. Domínguez, S. Coleman, D. Howells, A. Smith — L. Ferdinand, S. Innes.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Arsenal to win by two goals.



Stan-tastic: Collymore scores the winning goal to settle the epic Anfield meeting between Liverpool and Newcastle in April 1996

11
FIRST
ELEVEN
HITS OF THE NINETIES

April 3 1996, Liverpool 4 Newcastle 3 — they called it the match of the decade. Well, maybe it was, but here are 11 other contenders for the title.

1. Liverpool 4 Newcastle 3, March 1997. (It couldn't happen again, could it? It could, a die)
2. C Palace 4 Liverpool 3, April 1990. (Palace heading for Wembley — "There's only one Alan Pardew")
3. Chesterfield 3 Middlesbrough 3, April 1997. (The Sparrows beaten in the Cup semi-final and, yes it was over the line)
4. Leicester 3 Swindon 4, May 1993. (Leicester fight back from 3-0 down, only to lose to a dodgy penalty)
5. Chelsea 4 Liverpool 2, January 1997. (Chelsea fight back from 2-0 down and the legend of the Spice Boys is born)
6. Liverpool 3 Man Utd 3, January 1994. (United 3-0 up in half an hour. Liverpool saved... by Nigel Clough)
7. Everton 4 Liverpool 4, February 1991. (Everton led four times and the quality of Markey was too much of a strain for Kenny Dalglish — he resigned two days later)
8. Villa 1 Internazionale 0, September 1994. (The best performance by a British side in Europe since the ban was lifted. It didn't save Ron Atkinson's job six weeks later)
9. Southampton 2 Spurs 0, March 1996. (Spurs were 2-0 up when they missed a penalty and, with it, a place in the Championship)
10. Reading 3 Bolton 4, May 1996. (Reading were 2-0 up when they missed a penalty and, with it, a place in the Championship)

Compiled by Richard Whitehead


ASTON VILLA
LEEDS UNITED
 Today, 3.0


Richard Holson
Brian Little has managed to retain a sense of humour this week, even if it is of the gallows variety. Asked whether he knew that defeat at Tottenham would complete the worst start in Villa's history, he said that the chairman had already pointed it out. Last there be any doubt, Little quickly stressed that he was joking.

What price the first vote of confidence for a Premiership manager if Villa lose for a fifth time against Leeds United this afternoon? "Deadly," Doug Ellis has long contended that his reputation for intolerance of managers is unfounded, but Little will doubtless have his own thoughts.

Yorkie and Collymore each scored for the first time at White Hart Lane. More goals will surely follow from both. Of far more concern is the defence. Over the past two seasons only Arsenal have conceded fewer goals: this time the Villa rearguard is as porous as a pair of fishnet tights.

"We are aware of how quickly we need to get out of this position," Little said, after the sale of Andy Townsend to Middlesbrough, which could finally mean an extended opportunity for Paul Grayson. "The way to do that is by staying together and working hard," Little said. "When the boys look for reasons to explain why things are not going right they do not always get the right ones. They need somebody to tell them, and that is where they need me."

Leeds have picked up just a single point from three home games but beat Sheffield Wednesday on their only outing from Elland Road. George Graham, the manager, believes that some of his foreign players, namely Hasselbaink and Ribeiro, are still coming to terms with the big crowds at Elland Road. It will be no smaller at Villa Park this afternoon.

The only fitness doubt concerns Robert Moleenaar, the Holland defender, affectionately known as "The Terminator". David Wetherall stands by.

ASTON VILLA (probable: 3-5-3): M. Seaman — U. Emenike, G. Southgate, R. Moleenaar, G. Charles, I. Taylor, M. Grayson, S. Staunton — D. Yorkie, S. Collymore.
LEEDS UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): N. Martin — G. Hala, L. Radebe, R. Moleenaar, D. Robertson — S. Kelly, D. Heslop, A. Hazzard, B. Ribeiro — J. P. Hazzard, R. Wallace.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Villa to open their account with a point.

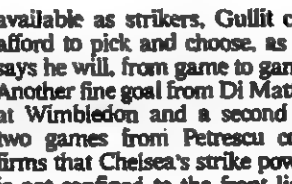

CHelsea
SOUTHAMPTON
 Today, 3.0

available as strikers. Gullit can pick and choose, as he says he will, from game to game.

Another fine goal from Di Matteo at Wimbledon and a second in two games from Petrescu confirms that Chelsea's strike power is not confined to the front line.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Chelsea to win 3-0.


CRYSTAL PALACE
BLACKBURN ROVERS
 Today, 3.0

DERBY COUNTY
BARNESLEY
 Today, 3.0

overrun by Chelsea or beating Crystal Palace and Bolton Wanderers, have played with refreshing abandon.

As for Smith, he can at last begin to relish the prospect of fielding his first-choice team, with Sturridge, the top goalscorer last season, Asanovic, the highly influential playmaker, and Baiano, the £1.5 million recruit from Serie A, all on the menu.

DERBY COUNTY (probable: 3-5-3): M. Poom — J. Larmann, I. Simeon, C. Gully — S. Egan, R. van der Laan, A. Asanovic, L. Carney, C. Powell — A. Ward, F. Bannister.

BARNESLEY (probable: 3-5-3): L. Lacey — A. Moses, M. Appleby, A. de Zeeuw — N. Eaden, N. Redman, E. Taylor, C. Llewellyn, D. Barnd — G. Hirst, J. Hendrie.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Derby, off the mark.

The welcome return of the gifted young Duberry has strengthened the defence and Leppard is also back in the squad after missing the game at Selhurst Park with a stomach upset.

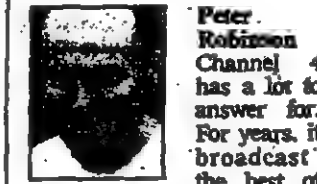
Against this panoply of talent, Southampton will do well to survive. They hope that injuries to Ostendstad and Oakley will heal in time, but Magilton will play after an injection in a painful foot.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 4-4-2): E. de Guay — F. Sander, M. Duberry, F. Leppard, G. Le Guay — D. Perreux, R. G. Miano, D. Wiles, G. Foyat — G. Zola, G. Viall.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable: 4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Morrison, F. Bannister, L. Todd — D. Hughes, J. Magilton, N. Meddison, D. Spedding — K. Davies, S. Johansson.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Chelsea to win 3-0.


CRYSTAL PALACE
BLACKBURN ROVERS
 Today, 3.0


Italian football for an audience that believed that it like Serie A, was an elite, an initiated few that understood what *cattinaccio* was and could pronounce names like Bortolazzi and Tagliapietra without sounding like a punter trying to order a plate of spaghetti. It could not last; managers and chairmen began to mutter: "They look good, I want one." And so it came to pass.

Last season was just the beginning, Viall and company merely an advance party. Last week, for example, Messrs Di Canio and Carbone were at Selhurst Park and this week Attilio Lombardo is back — plucked from the fringes of Juventus to star for Crystal Palace on their return to the Premiership.

Today represents perhaps his first true test, for Blackburn are running free at the top of the league with an Italian influence of their own. True, Roy Hodgson, their manager, is a Croydon man, born and bred, and today represents a homecoming for him, but he arrived in Lancashire from Internazionale. He will know all about Lombardo and is unlikely to let him dictate matters, as Leeds United and Everton did recently.

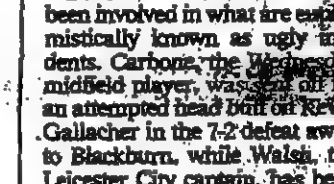
Hodgson will change things today, if only because Flan, the goalkeeper, has a broken arm, sustained on Monday in the 7-2 thrashing of Sheffield Wednesday, and McKelvey is doubtful with a groin strain. Flowers, himself back after injury, should thus return in goal and Bohinen may start in midfield. Wilcox is expected to play, despite sore ribs. Warhurst will lead the Palace attack against his former club in a team unchanged from that which lost 1-0 away to Southampton in midweek.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 3-5-3): K. Miller — D. Todd, M. Eborby, A. Latham — K. Mamest, A. Roberts, S. Rodgers, A. Llewellyn, D. Gordon — P. Warhurst, D. Dyer.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable: 4-4-2): T. Flower — P. Veltzy, S. Hargreaves, J. Kinnear — S. Pacey, G. Pilkett, L. Robinson, J. Wilson — C. Sutton, K. Galloway.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Blackburn to prove too good.


CRYSTAL PALACE
BLACKBURN ROVERS
 Today, 3.0


Italian football for an audience that believed that it like Serie A, was an elite, an initiated few that understood what *cattinaccio* was and could pronounce names like Bortolazzi and Tagliapietra without sounding like a punter trying to order a plate of spaghetti. It could not last; managers and chairmen began to mutter: "They look good, I want one." And so it came to pass.

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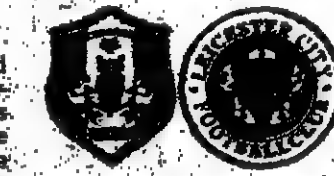
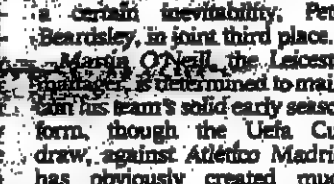
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CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 3-5-3): K. Miller — D. Todd, M. Eborby, A. Latham — K. Mamest, A. Roberts, S. Rodgers, A. Llewellyn, D. Gordon — P. Warhurst, D. Dyer.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable: 4-4-2): T. Flower — P. Veltzy, S. Hargreaves, J. Kinnear — S. Pacey, G. Pilkett, L. Robinson, J. Wilson — C. Sutton, K. Galloway.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** Blackburn to prove too good.


CRYSTAL PALACE
BLACKBURN ROVERS
 Today, 3.0


Italian football for an audience that believed that it like Serie A, was an elite, an initiated few that understood what *cattinaccio* was and could pronounce names like Bortolazzi and Tagliapietra without sounding like a punter trying to order a plate of spaghetti. It could not last; managers and chairmen began to mutter: "They look good, I want one." And so it came to pass.

Last season was just the beginning, Viall and company merely an advance party. Last week, for example, Messrs Di Canio and Carbone were at Selhurst Park and this week Attilio Lombardo is back — plucked from the fringes of Juventus to star for Crystal Palace on their return to the Premiership.

Today represents perhaps his first true test, for Blackburn are running free at the top of the league with an Italian influence of their own. True, Roy Hodgson, their manager, is a Croydon man, born and bred, and today represents a homecoming for him, but he arrived in Lancashire from Internazionale. He will know all about Lombardo and is unlikely to let him dictate matters, as Leeds United and Everton did recently.

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COVENTRY CITY
 Today, 3.0

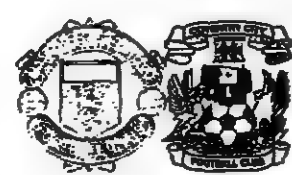
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COVENTRY CITY (probable: 3-5-3): S. Ogras — P. Williams, G. Brown, R. Shaw — S. Galloway, P. Toller, G. McAllister, T. E. Schell, K. Lightbourne — D. Dublin, D. Huddley.

■ **TELEVISION:** Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

■ **PREDICTION:** United to huff and puff before blowing the Coventry house down.


MANCHESTER UNITED
COVENTRY CITY
 Today, 3.0

Champions' League kicks off, so Coventry beware. Their record at Old Trafford does not bode well either, just two draws in the 13 most recent visits, but they do have the inspiration of Gordon Strachan behind them.

As a player under Ferguson, he

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WEST HAM UNITED
WIMBLEDON
 Today, 3.0

and cultured as the pundits suggest? Is he really ready to roll over Moldova?

Wimbledon have made another sluggish start but at least it is better than last season, when they lost their first three matches. They then embarked on an unbeaten run of 14 league matches, made up of ten victories and four draws. West Ham should beware. Hell hath no fury like a wounded Don.

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■ **PREDICTION:** Draw.


WEST HAM UNITED
WIMBLEDON
 Today, 3.0

sidekick, should team up again when Wimbledon visit the East End this afternoon, keeping last Donnie on the bench. Main eyes, though, will be on Rio Ferdinand, Glenn Hoddle's latest recruit, to the England squad. Is the young West Ham defender really as cool

WEST HAM UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): I. McLeod — T. Brammer, M. Poyet, R. Ferdinand, D. Unsworth — J. Morrison, S. Lomas, E. Belfrage, S. Lazard — P. Nelson, J. Morrison.

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ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

England rejection fires resolve to work even harder

When I checked my telephone messages on Thursday and heard the voice of Glenn Hoddle, I feared the worst. Sure enough, the manager rang to explain to me that I would not be part of the England squad to face Moldova in the World Cup.

It was kind of him to do that, because I had not been in the squad during the summer through injury, and therefore he had no obligation to ring me. I appreciate that he took the trouble to let me know early, because learning from Cee-fax that you are not selected is not particularly pleasant.

Glenn explained to me that the players who had come in during the summer had done well and that he wanted to try a few different things for this match, but he also stressed that, if I kept playing as I had done against Leeds United this week, I would

soon be back in the squad. My instant reaction was one of huge disappointment. Like every kid, I used to dream that I was in an England shirt, playing at Wembley. I want to play for my country. I am desperate to play for my country and not to be part of it is a terrible empty feeling.

Yet I have no complaints with the manager. I understand his reasoning. During the summer, Glenn told me he had absolutely no problem with the fact that I was forced to withdraw from the squad through injury. He said that he realised the injury was serious and had needed attention for some time. He also carefully explained that he had to be fair to the players who had come in. If they performed well — as they did, very well — then they were the players who would be in the squad for

Moldova. I watched back home our brilliant performances in Le Tournoi de France and I was very impressed.

Added to that the fact that it had been a very difficult start to the season for me and I did not expect to be in the squad. Things, though, are looking up. Liverpool played very well at Leeds and I am beginning to feel relaxed and on top of my game. I accept England selection is about performances and no one can expect to be picked without first proving their worth. That is now my single-minded aim, because I want to pull on that white jersey again.

■ **Final analysis**
After the game at Blackburn Rovers last Saturday, I sat down with a video recording of the match and analysed my performance. In particular, I looked



closely at the chance I missed during an important stage of the match. It was a good chance and I know I should have taken it. It was an important stage of the game and a goal then would probably have given us a win. Looking at it again, I accept it may well have been a lazy chip. It may have been a poor finish. It may well have been all these things, but it was a good save by John Fylan as well.

That's not an excuse, far from it. It is just a positive interpretation. People have asked me what I did in the days between the miss at

Blackburn and the goal I scored at Leeds and the answer is I merely maintained my belief in myself.

I work hard on my finishing because I know how important to my game it is to improve in that area. I stay behind after training with Robbie Fowler and work with him on all aspects of the job. But it is not as simple as that, because training is a false situation. You can score every time in training, but it doesn't really prepare you for a match. There is only so much shooting you can do on the practice range, only so much work you can get out of it. What clearly is even

more important is that you get your mental approach right.

Every forward has told me that they miss more than they score, but the art of goalkeeping is to keep getting in there in dangerous positions and to keep hitting the target. In essence, the hardest part of all is to keep the mind tuned.

■ **Classic prospect**
It is Newcastle United at Anfield again tomorrow and everyone is expecting another classic. I don't think they will be disappointed because, if anything, this match has a more attractive appearance than last season's 4-3. That was not a classic match. It was a game we should have won 3-0, but almost threw away. This time, Newcastle are unbeaten and come off the back of a very good result in Europe. They also bring a different attitude to Anfield than most other sides, because they come looking for victory, not to stop us from playing. That is why this game tends to be an exciting one.

There is also the return of John Barnes and Ian Rush to add even more spice. I'm sure our fans will give them both a great reception because they were both wonderful servants to our club and, don't forget, are still great players.

I was sad to see John Barnes leave Anfield a few weeks ago. To me, he is a brilliant player and I look up to him. In training, he was

still head and shoulders above everyone else and all the players still rate him very highly.

However, he said the circumstances were right for a change and good luck to him. I hope they both do well against Newcastle, but not for us. In fact, I am rather hoping they don't play tomorrow, because it would be awful if they came back and scored.

I suppose it would be all right if it ends up at 4-3 again, providing we score the four, but I would much rather that we took hold of the match as we did last year and then kept our grip on it. Anyway, it is impossible that we could get a 4-3 scoreline again... isn't it?

■ **Celtic quest**
We meet Celtic in the first round of the UEFA Cup, a tie that is, shall we say, interesting. There will be massive enthusiasm for the game among the two sets of supporters and I'm sure the whole British thing will be served up once more. It will be an intense, difficult game for Liverpool. I know Celtic have not had the best of stars, but I feel certain that the atmosphere will be like that at a derby match and so the form book will go out of the window. We played them a couple of years ago and drew 0-0 up there in a pre-season game, so at least we know what to expect.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)				HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
PLAYED	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. BLACKBURN ROVERS (1)	4	10	+10	2	1	0	9	3	1	0	0	4	0	3-1-0	W1
2. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	4	10	+5	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	4	0	3-1-0	W1
3. ARSENAL (6)	4	8	+4	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	7	5	2-2-0	D1
4. LEICESTER CITY (4)	4	8	+2	1	2	0	4	3	1	0	0	2	1	2-2-0	D2
5. WEST HAM UTD (3)	4	7	+1	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	2-1-1	D1
6. CHELSEA (13)	3	6	+7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	10	3	2-0-1	W2
7. NEWCASTLE UTD (7)	2	6	+2	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-0	W2
8. CRYSTAL PALACE (9)	4	6	+1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	4	2	2-0-2	L1
9. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (19)	4	6	-3	2	0	1	4	4	0	0	1	1	2	2-0-2	W2
10. BARNLEY (9)	4	6	-5	1	0	2	3	9	1	0	0	1	0	2-0-2	W1
11. LIVERPOOL (13)	4	5	+1	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	4	2	1-2-1	W1
12. COVENTRY CITY (11)	4	5	-1	1	2	0	6	5	0	0	1	0	2	1-2-1	D2
13. BOLTON WANDERERS (8)	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	4	1-1-1	L1
14. LEEDS UTD (5)	4	4	-2	0	1	2	1	5	1	0	0	3	1	1-1-2	L2
15. EVERTON (15)	3	3	-2	1	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-2	L1
16. SOUTHAMPTON (17)	4	3	-3	1	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	1-0-3	W1
17. WIMBLEDON (12)	3	2	-2	0	2	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0-2-1	L1
18. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (18)	4	1	-8	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	4	10	0-1-3	L1
19. DERBY COUNTY (16)	2	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0-0-2	L2
20. ASTON VILLA (20)	4	0	-7	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	3	2	5	0-0-4	L4

ATTACK			DEFENCE			SCORERS			SCORING TRENDS			OPENING RUNS		
Goals scored	Average		Goals conceded	Average		Goals	Goals per half	1st	2nd	Goals per half	1st	Goals	Goals per half	1st
1. Chelsea 10 3.33			1. Manchester Utd 0 0.00			Bergkamp (Arsenal) 5	Arsenal 4 5	Arsenal	W8 L4	Successive wins/losses at start of season				
2. Blackburn 13 3.25			2. Newcastle 1 0.50			Sutton (Blackburn) 5	Aston Villa 1 1	Aston Villa	W4 L4					
3. Arsenal 9 2.25			3. Blackburn 3 0.75			Vialli (Chelsea) 3	Barnley 2 2	Barnley	W5 L6					
4. Coventry 6 1.50			4. Crystal Palace 3 0.75			Blake (Bolton) 3	Blackburn 9 4	Blackburn	W5 L3					
5. Leicester 6 1.50			5. Chelsea 4 1.00			Carbone (Sheff Wed) 3	Bolton 2 2	Bolton	W7 L7					
6. Newcastle 3 1.50			6. Leicester 4 1.00			Dublin (Coventry) 3	Chelsea 4 2	Chelsea	W5 L9					
7. West Ham 6 1.50			7. Derby 2 1.00			Ferdinand (Tottenham) 3	Coventry 4 2	Coventry	W5 L5					
8. Bolton 4 1.33			8. Liverpool 4 1.00			Wright (Arsenal) 2	Crystal Palace 4 2	Crystal Palace	W5 L5					
9. Liverpool 5 1.25			9. Wimbledon 4 1.00			Asprilla (Newcastle) 2	Derby 0 0	Derby	W5 L4					
10. Manchester Utd 5 1.25			10. Arsenal 5 1.25			Beckham (Man Utd) 2	Leeds Utd 3 1	Leeds Utd	W7 L3					
11. Sheffield Wed 5 1.25			11. Southampton 5 1.25			Elliot (Leicester) 2	Leicester 2 4	Leicester	W3 L6					
12. Tottenham 5 1.25			12. West Ham 4 1.00			Gallagher (Blackburn) 2	Liverpool 1 4	Liverpool	W8 L8					
13. Barnley 4 1.00			13. Bolton 6 1.50			Harrison (West Ham) 2	Manchester Utd 1 4	Manchester Utd	W10 L12					
14. Crystal Palace 4 1.00			14. Leeds Utd 6 1.50			Huckley (Coventry) 2	Newcastle 2 1	Newcastle	W11 L4					
15. Everton 3 1.00			15. Tottenham 6 1.50			Lombardo (C Palace) 2	Sheff Wed 2 3	Sheff Wed	W7 L4					
16. Leeds Utd 4 1.00			16. Everton 5 1.67			Owen (Liverpool) 2	Southampton 1 1	Southampton	W3 L4					
17. Aston Villa 2 0.50			17. Coventry 7 1.75			Petrov (Chelsea) 2	Tottenham 2 3	Tottenham	W11 L4					
18. Southampton 2 0.50			18. Aston Villa 9 2.25			Redfern (Barnley) 2	West Ham 2 4	West Ham	W5 L3					
19. Wimbledon 2 0.50			19. Barnley 9 2.25			Wallace (Leeds) 2	Wimbledon 1 1	Wimbledon	W0 L3					
20. Derby 0 0.00			20. Sheffield Wed 13 3.25											

TELEVISION DETAILS			
BBC1: Today: Football Focus (in Grandstand, 12.20pm); Match of the Day, 10.50pm.			
Channel 4: Tomorrow: Football Focus, International v Brescia (2.45).			
Sky Sports 1: Today: Spanish League, Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid (live, 7.30).			
Tomorrow: FA Carling Premiership, Liverpool v Newcastle United (4.0).			
Sky Sports 3: Tomorrow: Nationwide League, Crewe Alexandra v Port Vale (live, 1.0).			

THE FA CUP CORNER			
Cross-border skirmishes - how English and Scottish clubs have fared in European combat			
SCOTLAND 2 ENGLAND 1			
Date	Round	Teams	Scores
1969-70	(sf)	Celtic v Leeds	(2-1, 1-0)
1980-81	(2)	Aberdeen v Liverpool	(0-1, 0-4)
1992-93	(2)	Rangers v Leeds	(2-1, 2-1)
SCOTLAND 2 ENGLAND 2			
1960-61	(sf)	Rangers v Wolverhampton	(2-0, 1-1)
1962-63	(2)	Rangers v Tottenham	(2-3, 2-5)
1965-66	(sf)	Celtic v Liverpool	(1-0, 0-2)
1968-69	(sf)	Dunfermline v West Bromwich	(0-0, 1-0)
SCOTLAND 2 ENGLAND 14			
1962-63	(1)	Dunfermline v Everton	(2-0, 0-1)
1964-65	(1)	Kilmarnock v Everton	(0-2, 1-4)
1966-67	(sf)	Kilmarnock v Leeds	(0-0, 2-4)
1967-68	(2)	Hibernian v Leeds	(1-1, 0-1)
1967-68	(sf)	Rangers v Leeds	(0-0, 2-3)
1967-68	(sf)	Dundee v Leeds	(1-1, 0-1)
1968-69	(1)	Greenock Morton v Chelsea	(3-4, 0-5)
1968-69	(sf)	Rangers v Newcastle	(1-2, 0-1)
1969-70	(1)	Dundee Utd v Newcastle	(0-1, 0-2)
1970-71	(3)	Hibernian v Liverpool	(1-1, 1-4)
1973-74	(2)	Aberdeen v Tottenham	(1-1, 1-4)
1973-74	(1)	Hibernian v Leeds	(0-0, 0-4, 4-6pen)
1975-76	(1)	Hibernian v Liverpool	(2-4, 0-4)
1982-82	(2)	Aberdeen v Ipswich	(3-1, 1-1)
1983-84	(3)	Celtic v Notts Forest	(1-2, 0-1)
1984-85	(3)	Dundee Utd v Manchester Utd	(2-3, 2-2)

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Blackburn revel in Rover's return

After a frustrating spell in the shadows Chris Sutton is back, older, wiser and doing what he does best

OLIVER HOLT



It is the high country that Chris Sutton inhabits now. It is a land of red-brick viaducts and green valleys, a swath of countryside where cars wait in passing places on single-track roads, a place where the great mills and chimneys of the industrial North give way to quaint small towns and villages of light stone houses, tea rooms and shops called The Chocolate Box.

In one of these towns, on a quiet street away from the car park where the tourist coaches stop, Sutton is sitting in a bistro, cradling the elder of his young, flaxen-haired sons on his knee, helping him to eat his lunch. His wife, Samantha, is sitting opposite, his brother, Ian, is on his right. They are regulars here and soon the owner of the place pulls up a chair and lets one of the boys draw pictures on his pad of receipts.

For some reason, perhaps because John Filan, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper bought from Coventry City, had been badly injured in the 7-2 win over Sheffield Wednesday earlier in the week, the conversation turns to Steve Ogrizovic.

"He saved a penalty of mine once with his foot," Sutton said with a smile. "Must be a brilliant keeper."

"Ball probably never reached the six-yard box if it was one of yours," his brother said.

When lunch is over and the restaurant has emptied out, Sutton sits alone at the table for a while, contemplating the return of the good times. Blackburn, unbeaten in the first four games under their new manager, Roy Hodgson, and scorers of 13 goals to boot, go into the match today at Crystal Palace sitting atop the FA Carling Premiership and Sutton, with five goals, is the league's joint-leading scorer, the man of the moment.

He seems to be playing as well as he ever has, reveling in the restored responsibility of being the target man, the role he enjoys most, the one that best suits his game. He has made such an impression that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said yesterday that he had considered him when choosing his squad for the game against Moldova in ten days' time and



After a prolific start to the season and a mention in dispatches by the England coach, Sutton is enjoying life again as Blackburn regain the look of the champions that they once were

may still draft him in if another striker is injured this weekend.

Sutton looked like the complete striker against Sheffield Wednesday, creating chances for others, working back tirelessly and holding the ball up to redistribute it. His first goal, a curling right-foot drive from 20 yards, was the pick of the glut. Behind Sutton and around him, Hodgson has instilled a new confidence into a team that flurried long and close with relegation last season. Kevin Gallacher is scoring goals, too. Stuart Ripley and Jason Wilcox are running riot down the flanks. Garry Flitcroft is working like a Trojan in the centre of midfield and Colin Hendry is as firm as ever at the back.

Amid the euphoria in this part of Lancashire, though, Sutton is a model of rationality. The good times have rolled for him before and he knows their pitfalls. The first time that they bore down on him, when he was a referee, 20-year-old scoring goals with abandon for Norwich City, they brought screaming tabloid front-page headlines about his private life along with them.

The second time, after he had held his own, and more, playing alongside Alan

Shearer in the strike force the newspapers nicknamed the SAS, for Sutton and Shearer, scored 20 goals and won a championship medal under the management of Kenny Dalglish, he was bewildered when he found himself left out in the cold at the start of the next season, amid rumours that Shearer preferred playing with Mike Newell, and asked to play in defence when he had proved himself one of the best strikers in the country.

Now he is back up there again and this time he is older and wiser, better equipped to deal with the ephemerality of success and put it in perspective. He still finds it hard to forget ill-judged criticism — the fact that someone labelled him a "flop" a few months after he led Blackburn to the championship still rankles — but he can laugh at it now.

Above all, he speaks with a quiet thoughtfulness that is rare in modern footballers. He hates the fact that the increasing concentration on statistics, on passes completed, shots made and the rest is in danger of taking the spontaneity and

invention out of the game. But he is reflective rather than uproarious, someone who is open and approachable and free of the obsessive need for self-aggrandisement that blights the characters of lesser talents.

"I want to do well and I am very self-critical," Sutton said. "In a game, I get angry with myself if I am not doing things right. With the highs like the one we are on at the moment, I am on a fairly even keel. If things are going well, I know from experience that they can turn and you can fall flat on your face again."

"Of course, having Hodgson at the club has made a difference. Part of it may be that when you get a new manager coming in, you are always going to have a honeymoon period with the euphoria of him arriving when all the players are knocking down and wanting to impress, play well and be in the starting XI."

"That may be the case at the moment, but training methods are different this season. We seem to be training a lot longer and the preparation before and after games seems to be better than it has been in previous years. That is not being disrespectful to previous managers here:

it just seems to be the way the game is going. We seem to be taking a lot more time over stretching, warm-ups, warm-downs before and after training, massages, the food we are eating, the drugs we eat the food, staying at hotels before the games just to make sure the players are all comfortable and have the right rest and the team spirit is right. The difficult period is going to come in the next few months after the honeymoon period is over."

This season, though, the slate has been wiped clean, and we are starting afresh. There is a different mentality at the club now. Everything has changed. It is a massive season for me and for Blackburn. Blackburn have had two years in the wilderness and I suppose people would say the same for me. We were always up against it last season, but now there is more of a feeling that our destiny is in our own hands."

Sutton, 24, was born in Nottingham but grew up in Norwich, where his father played for the Canaries in the 1960s. He joined the club as a trainee and was soon

in the first team and playing for England Under-21. After he scored 28 goals in the 1993-94 season, he was supposed to be on the verge of joining Arsenal when Dalglish paid a club-record fee of £5 million to take him to Blackburn. He spent a night in the cells in Norwich on the eve of the transfer after a celebratory evening out with friends, but he was soon making the right sort of headlines again, blazing a trail with Shearer as Blackburn barged the rest aside to win the title in 1995.

From then until the start of this season, his career had been consigned to the shadows, first by the idiosyncrasies of Ray Harford, who took over from Dalglish, and then by a series of injuries. When he scored a hat-trick against Aston Villa in Rovers' second game of this season, one newspaper called him "the Premiership's forgotten man".

Now, though, he is very much back in the limelight, a bit thicker-skinned, ready to deal with whatever is thrown at him with equanimity. I tell him some people still say he is moody and this time Sutton just grins. "Depends what you mean by moody," he said.

Mark Hodgkinson continues to follow life in a town coming to terms with a 6-0 home defeat

Hurricane Vialli: the aftermath

Solace does not exist in a 6-0 home defeat. It is a deathly scoreline, one that even non-football fans will recognise as surreal. "Didn't their goalkeeper turn up?" they will ask. "Did someone lace their cups of tea at half-time?"

Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, steadfastly faced the press minutes after his team had been annihilated by Chelsea at Oakwell last Sunday. Football folk tend to talk in euphemisms, but there was only one left for Wilson, so he used it: "It's not the end of the world."

Make no mistake, 5.50pm on Sunday would have felt like Armageddon for Wilson. This was, after all, the Barnsley nightmare: a team savagely outplayed, made to look slow, thoughtless and — much worse — awkwardly out of place. "They toyed with us," Wilson admitted.

Since the game was played on a Sunday and broadcast live by Sky television, it received an extra emphasis. It was like inviting the family around for Sunday dinner and forgetting to switch on the oven, an indignity turned into a sporting catastrophe. It was 6-0 everywhere you looked: Vialli's retracted foot, the net bulging, the clenched fist, red shirts and red faces slumped to the ground, again and again.

The hushed tones with which the score was relayed

made it seem that a team so neglectful as to concede six goals would be relegated on the spot. This is largely because Barnsley and relegation have been synonymous since before the season began. When Barnsley lose, it is viewed as a precursor to demotion, but for anyone else a defeat is an aberration, a blip in their form. It is almost as if

Barnsley's presence in the FA Carling Premiership is seen as a massive stroke of good fortune. The fact is that they are in the top division because, over the course of last season, they were consistently a better team than all but one of their peers (Bolton Wanderers) in the first division of the Nationwide League.

It might seem tart to mention, but on Sunday evening Barnsley were still higher in the league than, among others, Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa. Also, many commentators failed to point out that a 6-0 defeat brings about precisely the same points tally as a 1-0 deficit. The real forfeit is

LIFE AT THE TOP



measured in the psychological damage it can inflict and this appears to have been fairly minimal.

On Wednesday, Eric Wisniewski, the Barnsley first-team coach, shared some of the media duties with Wilson. A former player at Oakwell, he was not known for his delicacy of tackle and his prose is similarly brusque. Typically, death was mentioned again. "Either you lie down and die or you bounce back," he told reporters before the match with Bolton.

Barnsley won 2-1 and played with the joyous abandon of a team that had merely read about someone being humiliated 6-0 rather than the team that had suffered it.

On this occasion, Sky was elsewhere, so the result did not have the same resonance. This will not cause them to weep into their beer in Barnsley because there have been a few too many cameras roaming the streets of late. It has even become difficult to find a gaggle of excitable youngsters willing to jump around manically over the shoulder



Barnsley were glad to see the back of the Chelsea striker

of a hapless interviewee. The exceptional has quickly become the commonplace.

While the media has been intrusive and intense, it has also been surprisingly respectful in its portrayal of the club and town. There has, of course, been mention of the traditional stereotype — the whippets, the pigeons, the cobbled streets — but in an affectionate way. Some observers have yelled that the town has been patronised, though this is a fairly ill-defined charge. In any area of life, sport or otherwise, a

complimentary remark is often interpreted as patronising these days.

Barnsley, on the whole, has done extremely well by the media. It is a town that has its own culture, which is unashamedly home-spun. One lead story in the local papers this week was about Harry Potter, a former baker who has decided to spend his retirement racing pigeons. "I've gone from being a pie widow to a pigeon widow," his wife, Elaine, said. Pies, pigeons: this is post-modernism, Barnsley style.

Expert analysis falls short

STEVE CLARIDGE, the Leicester City striker, and Ladbroke's, the bookmaker, have teamed up in a novel "charity challenge" aimed at raising money for worthy causes. The object of the exercise is for Claridge, using his extensive knowledge, to bet on a series of fixed-odds football selections each weekend. Sadly, he drew a blank on the opening day of the season and he did not fare much better second time around. Two of his four home "bankers" — Middlesbrough and Norwich City — bit the dust, as did two of his four away "certs" — Charlton Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Perhaps the expectant charities should not hold out too much hope of an imminent windfall. Is Claridge not the player, in his highly entertaining memoirs, who admitted losing a six-figure sum by... gambling.

Welcome back

Most intriguing draw of the Coca-Cola Cup second round was that of Reading against Peterborough United. Hardly a clash of the titans, granted, but there should be more spice than sugar when the sides meet up. Two weeks ago, Jimmy Quinn, the former Reading joint-player-manager, had a few unkind words to say about Reading on the eve of their derby against Swindon Town. It resulted in Clive "The Hound" Baskerville, football correspondent of the *Reading Evening Post*, being banned from Elm Park. Though The Hound has now been forgiven, it will be interesting to see who he chooses to interview in the build-up to the Coca-Cola Cup tie. As it happens,



by chance, Jimmy Quinn now plays for Peterborough.

Culture shock

Aljosa Asanovic, the cultured Derby County midfielder player, was not a happy bunny when he returned home to Croatia during the summer recess. His posh café, *Le Monde*, was apparently unrecognisable from how he had left it and debts had piled up. Split, was predictable. He raved, he raved, he threw a few things around — in fact, he went bananas.

Sticky business

Pass-the-sickbag advert of the season so far has to be the one featuring David Beckham, the hunky, handsome England and Manchester United midfielder, player. Slick-haired Beckham is the new "Brylcreem Boy" and, thus, is fair game for the copywriter's most banal drivel. It reads: "One young player swears by Brylcreem, using different styling products from the new range for his own needs. 'Wet Look' gel for training. 'Strong Hold' for match days and 'Modelling gel' for evenings out." Of course he does: how could he possibly not?

Price of fame

Word is spreading, far and wide, about the Chelsea revolution. The gospel according to Ruud Gullit has even prompted Fraser Holland, 28, from Hawkes Bay, in New Zealand, to purchase a Stamford Bridge season ticket without having seen the side play. His first visit to Stamford Bridge was to pick out the seat he wanted in the Matthew Harding Stand; his second is today, when Chelsea play Southampton in the FA Carling Premiership. Holland arrived in England only four months ago, but his new Earls Court buddies quickly persuaded him to switch his allegiance from Napier City Rovers. The Bridge seats do not come cheap, though — Holland's cost £375.

Noisy reception

Few matches can have taken place with such a surreal backdrop as that between Reading Town and Feltham in the Courage Combined Counties League last weekend. Concentration was nigh on impossible as ear-splitting music blared across the Scours Lane ground and a bunch of lunatics plunged towards earth from a nearby bungee-jumping contraption. The chaotic distractions came courtesy of the annual Reading Rock Festival, when the nation's Great Unwashed invade the usually peaceful Berkshire town.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Peggy Arphexad, Leicester City's new French goalkeeper, has fulfilled a dream by joining a club in the FA Carling Premiership. The boy Peggy began his career with Brest.

United to face old foes

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND
RUSSELL KEMPSON

The downside, of course, is that English frailty is likely to be exposed, but Ferguson believes, and genuinely, that his side can

Aston Villa will play Bordeaux and Arsenal take on PAOK Salonika, of Greece, while Chelsea meet Slovan Bratislava, of Slovakia, in the first round of the Cup Winners' Cup.



Juninho has already proved a big hit with the fans at Atlético Madrid



Ronaldo, left, will be out to impress for Inter tomorrow, as will Souness and Lentini, the winger, right, as they begin the Italian league season with Torino

Souness knows the only way is up

Expectations and anxieties are high as the Italian and Spanish league seasons prepare to get under way this weekend

Cravero, though bought from Lazio, was one of the numerous fine players developed at Torino under a youth scheme run by the legendary Sergio Vatta. So was the winger, Gigi Lentini, who has returned to the club after an excellent season with Atalanta.

Kluivert, none too popular with the Holland fans after his various escapades, has said that, if they jeer him in the World Cup game against Belgium next Saturday, he will not play for Holland again. Shades of a former Milan star, Ruud Gullit.

This week a goal by

**BRIAN
GLANVILLE**



Juninho beat Internazionale in a pre-season match away to Atlético Madrid, who open the Spanish league season tonight against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu Stadium, a match that will be televised live on Sky.

Luis Menotti, the new manager of Sampdoria — Torino's next opponents in the cup — is sceptical. Menotti, who as manager of Argentina launched Diego Maradona's international career but would not choose him for the 1978 World Cup, said "At 21, Diego never went out on the street. He took great care

stumpoia's icon, has gone to Lazio but that still leaves two stars up front... not to mention Morelos, transferred from Menotti's last Argentinian club, Independiente. Dichio has made an excellent personal impression in Genoa, but how hard it will be to get off the bench.

Scotland lose unlucky Jackson Hinchcliffe Townsend signs up in secret

By KEVIN MCCABEA

During that period, however, he may be able to maintain his fitness by running. The discovery of a neurological condition is distressing at any time, but there is a particular poignancy in the case of Jackson, who, at 31, has only just reached the highest level of the sport. He was, of course, absent from the squad

He last appeared for his country in the 0-0 draw with Estonia in Monaco in February. Scotland have since played four World Cup qualifying matches and Ferguson has not been fit for any of them. It

SCOTLAND: T Boyd (Celce), C Burley (Celce), G Calderwood (Totterham Hotspur), J Collins (Ais Moss), C Dally (Derby County), W Dadds (Aberdeen), S Donnelly (Celce), S Dure (Chelsea), K Galscher (Blackburn Rovers), A Gordon (Rangers), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), U Hopler (Leeds United), P Lambert (Barnsley Dortmund), J Lughton (Aberdeen), B McAllister (Winnelston), G McAllister (Gowmy City), A McCoist (Rangers), T McInlay (Celce), W McInlay (Blackburn Rovers), J McNamara (Celce), N Sullivan (Winnelston), D Weir (Heart of Midlothian).

may return

"The thigh is fine now, and it was good to get the game with the Americans completed, my first 90 minutes for 8½ months," he said.

"I was tired and my knee was stiff, but that's bound to be the case. My fitness and weight are OK, and I don't feel I am that far away."

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

"Andy is an experienced international footballer with exceptional qualities," Robson said. "He will be invaluable to us as we bid for an immediate return to the Premiership. We're very fortunate to have acquired someone of his talent and

gled to a 2-1 home win over Charlton Athletic on the opening day and lost 1-0, also at the Riverside Stadium, against Stoke City last weekend. Even though Townsend's early form has been

Mark Robins, the former Manchester United striker, has joined Reading on a month's loan from Leicester City. Robins, 28, will make his debut against Bradford City this afternoon.





ROWING 39

Single-mindedness of Redgrave now divided in four

1F

SPORT

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

TENNIS 42

Rusedski shrugs off distractions to win in New York

Hoddle happy to lead Wright's defence

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ON ANOTHER day, it might have been about Rio Ferdinand and Emile Heskey and the exciting international futures ahead of them. Instead, the hotel basement where Glenn Hoddle yesterday announced his England squad for the World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova took on the feeling of a courtroom dock without the accused. The England coach was playing counsel for the defence.

when he came back onto the pitch to remonstrate with Graham Barber, the referee.

In the two days that have followed his ill-judged but innocuous actions, Wright has been compared to some of British criminology's most celebrated protagonists, both real and fictional. Nevertheless, England, deprived of the services of Alan Shearer, are likely to rely heavily on Wright in the two remaining World Cup qualifying games, against Moldova on September 10 and Italy on October 11.

As hints emerged that any punitive action resulting from Wright's latest misconduct charge would not be effected until after the match in Rome, Hoddle leapt to his defence. "Jan Wright has still got a case to answer," Hoddle said, "but a lot of people seem to have

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS: D Seaman (Aston Villa), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), N Marlyn (Leeds United)
DEFENDERS: G Neville (Manchester United), G Sounghoun (Aston Villa), G Peltier (Manchester United), R Ferdinand (West Ham United), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), G Le Saout (Chelsea), P Neville (Manchester United)
MIDFIELD PLAYERS: D Batty (Newcastle United), N Butt (Manchester United), D Beckham (Manchester United), P Gascoigne (Rangers), P Scholes (Manchester United), R Lee (Newcastle United), S Ripley (Blackburn Rovers)
FORWARDS: E Swinburn (Manchester United), L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur), I Wright (Aston Villa), S Collymore (Aston Villa), E Heskey (Leicester City). One player to be added.

given the answer already. He is very much in my thoughts because he is playing extremely well. There are too many people who have jumped on the bandwagon of criticising him pretty quickly.

"I have studied the video of what happened after the match and there is not much there. There is no law that says someone who has been substituted cannot re-enter the pitch. He has not broken any rules there. There were about seven or eight other Arsenal players on there with him and Ian would probably not even have got a yellow card for what he did. Why was he reported and not the others?"

As far as what is done to discipline him, I cannot control that. He came off the pitch in a very controlled manner. The referee probably reported him because he is Ian Wright. Marc Overmars said things to the referee, too, but he is not Ian Wright. He gets picked on because of who he is.

"Ian was provoked in a lot of ways. If he had run onto that

pitch and smacked someone in the mouth, then he would not have been in the squad today. But I didn't think what happened was a major issue."

Hoddle may find that he is criticised himself for having

the temerity to defend Wright, but Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, stood up for his striker, too. "There is an obsession with Ian Wright now," Wenger said. "I am reading about the chance of a 12-match ban, and if the FA do that they will kill him, but I believe they are strong enough to deal correctly with this."

It would surely be more appropriate to give Wright a retrospective yellow card for his actions or punish him with a one-match ban rather than resort to draconian measures that would be pandering to a form of collective hysteria. Whatever happens, the issue all but obscures the chances given to Ferdinand and Heskey, the recall of Stuart Ripley, and the absence of Steve McManaman.

made just 20 first-team appearances for West Ham United, has been given his chance because of injuries to others, but there is a feeling that this will be the first of many inclusions in the squad of a player who can become the ball-playing sweeper that Hoddle covets.

McManaman's absence, Hoddle said, was due more to his troubled start to the season than the fact that he missed the Tournoi de France in the summer. If Robbie Fowler, another Tournoi absentee, had been fit, he would also have been included. His omission, though, is an opportunity for Ripley, such an important factor in Blackburn Rovers' renaissance, to stake his own claim.



Ferdinand: coveted

Ferdinand, 18, who has

Steve McManaman, page 45

Wavering captain remains at England helm after backing from selectors

Atherton refuses to jump ship

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE conversion of Michael Atherton began at the Oval last Saturday evening and ended, five nights later, with drinks and reassurance from the chairman of selectors. Only then did a man committed to resignation take the momentous decision to continue as captain of England.

Yesterday, blinking and grinning before a mass of cameras and microphones at Lord's, Atherton spoke with conviction about the fresh challenge that sustained him. He gave every impression of someone who had decided in his own time. I understand, however, that he had met David Graveney, the chairman, the previous evening still unsure whether he should stand down.

Atherton telephoned Graveney on Thursday morning to request the meeting. Graveney had spent the week preparing for the unwelcome news that his captain would resign and arrived in London surprised to find him still procrastinating. For the next hour, the issue hung in the balance.

Although Graveney did not apply coercion or ultimatums, his repeated assertion of selectorial confidence in Atherton probably swung a decision that so nearly went the other way. "I needed to know that the selectors still wanted me," Atherton admitted.

Graveney, having given the required encouragement and received the positive decision that he had always wanted, then spoke to his fellow selectors, Graham Gooch and

Mike Gatting, and the reappointment was ratified without demur or further delay.

Atherton, who joins the selectors tomorrow for a provisional discussion of winter plans, will now lead England on a fifth tour, to the West Indies in January. A different captain is to be appointed for the one-day tournament in Sharjah in December and, probably, for the internationals at the end of the tour.

This outcome, much the best thing for the England team, could not have occurred if the final Ashes Test had been lost. Last Thursday night, after a dreadful batting day for his side, Atherton, 29, was prepared for the end. The burden of four years in this most unforgiving of jobs was finally showing: his will for further punishment was almost spent. "If I said now that the Oval didn't make a difference, I would be lying," he said. "I'm only human and, despite what I said immediately after the game, it was a big influence."

The uplifting effect of a famous victory, the twelfth of his 46 matches in charge, made Atherton begin to rethink, but it was not in itself, a sufficient reason to continue. Nor, grateful though he was, were the words and gestures of support from all quarters enough to seduce him.

After a night of uninhibited celebration last Saturday, Atherton went to ground. Until Thursday, the only member of the England management that he had contact with was David Lloyd, the coach, and even he was unaware of what



Atherton, who was within hours of resigning, can now look forward to the West Indies tour this winter. Photograph: Mike Cooper/Allsport

would eventuate when Atherton met Graveney. "I had always said I wanted a few days," Atherton said, "I needed some time away. It was a tiring summer and I had to clear my head and settle some things in my own mind. It was a tough decision, but one I had to make on my own."

"There were two questions I had to ask myself: did I still have the same desire to do the job, and could I hope to get my batting back to its best while still captaining the side? I had to be sure of both these things if I was going to go on."

His batting was a leading concern. In six Tests this summer, Atherton averaged 23 — barely half his average since he became captain in

1993. He is not being complacent about it. "I have already booked some coaching sessions with Graham Gooch and I will be working and training hard," he said.

Once he had resolved such considerations and received the unequivocal backing of

Graveney, Atherton could finally restore his attention to the ambition that had previously dominated his thinking — to win in the West Indies. "The main challenge for me is to beat the West Indies on their own patch," he said. "I have always maintained that we

can do it if we play to our potential. At our best we can compete with any team in the world. At our worst, we are not a pretty sight."

"It was a case of either walking out on a job half-done or seeing it through. If I had given up, I might not exactly have failed, but I certainly would not have achieved what I set out to do. I might never get there. But I'm going to have a try."

In that, Atherton has the heartfelt goodwill of every rational cricket follower in the land. It was, however, a desperately near thing.

CAPTAINS' LOG				
HOW ATHERTON COMPARES TO ENGLISH MODERN-DAY LEADERS				
	M	A	P	
M A Atherton (1993-97)	48	22	28	18
G A Gooch (1989-93)	34	10	12	22
M W Gooch (1988-89)	23	2	5	28
R G D Willis (1984-89)	32	8	38	9
R G D Willis (1982-84)	18	7	8	9
J M Stanger (1977-81)	31	18	4	9
J M Stanger (1969-73)	31	12	8	14
R B Dwyer (1962-64)	30	9	7	24
P B H May (1955-61)	41	20	10	21

Those Spanish sighs have hidden meaning

Why Ballesteros is making such a big deal out of completing his Ryder Cup team for Valderrama

When they first decided to make Severiano Ballesteros the Europe Ryder Cup captain, you can't help wondering, didn't the smallest frisson of doubt pass through the deliberations?

"Sorry to be a killjoy, but you don't think..."

"What?"

"Well..."

"What?"

"Nothing."

"Look, whatever it is, pal, for God's sake drive it into the rough and we'll play it as it lies."

"Well, you know. All I'm thinking is, can we trust Seve not to, you know, make a bit of a meal of it?"

Well, they all sat round a bit glum after that and look what happened. Seve Ballesteros has had two years already to make a meal of the Ryder Cup captaincy, and it's turning into the *Babette's Feast* of golf. Course after course, it just keeps on coming. This is a meal the like of which has never been seen before. Funny that the most popular Spanish phrase in common English usage is *Que sera, sera*.

when it's an expression that the most famous Spaniard would rather die than use.

No, Seve is famous for many things, but not for accepting the inevitable, or selecting the line of least resistance, or sacrificing finesse in the cause of getting a move on. "I'm sure you didn't mean to change your ball just then, but even if it's in the rules, let's forget it, eh? Who wants bad feelings?" That's something Seve has never said. "Sorry, did I cough? Then take your shot again," he famously failed to say at the 1991 Ryder Cup.

Other sentiments we haven't heard from Ballesteros include

"Wherever we hold the next Ryder Cup will be fine by me", and also "My agent/my caddy/the American PGA and I have just agreed to disagree. Life's too short for arguing."

But if Ballesteros is a drama magnet, it's to do with him being a natural genius and superstar. I ask you, how many other people in the world can make chronic backache interesting? It's only right that his Ryder Cup team quandary has been an issue now for as

LYNNE TRUSS



long as anybody can remember, and that — swept along by his endless eeny-meeny — quite sane people are now waking up in the night in a panic, with only a month to go, to draw meaningless intersecting circles on graph paper and sob. "The suspense! The suspense is killing me!"

As far as I understand it, Seve wanted to have four wild cards in his team and his

request was turned down. Seve was therefore obliged to settle for two wild cards, and is now stretching the decision ("What if? But what if?") as taut as piano wire, partly to pay everybody back and partly to show what a terribly hard job it is.

And that's why we're living through history-in-the-making. "You see, he couldn't leave Nick Faldo out, could he?" we'll say to our grandchildren one day, chuckling in our rocking chairs. "Yet look at Jesper Parnevik and José María Olazábal. Three great guys and just two places. What a situation." In biblical times, of course, insufferable grandparents used to tell similar stories about the judgment of Solomon ("Just slice the baby in half!") but we mustn't forget life was cheap in those days.

Also King Solomon was never faced with anything as important as golf.

Personally, I've only had a Big Choice once, and I didn't like it much. Miserable to find myself with a deciding vote on a book award, I asked to use the toilet, and once out of sight, attempted to climb out of the window. My advice to Seve, however, is that the longer he drags this out, the more his final choice will look wrong. Has he made a meal of it? You bet. And there is much, much more to come. But can we resist being sucked into his drama? Can we ever? Dammit, we certainly can't.

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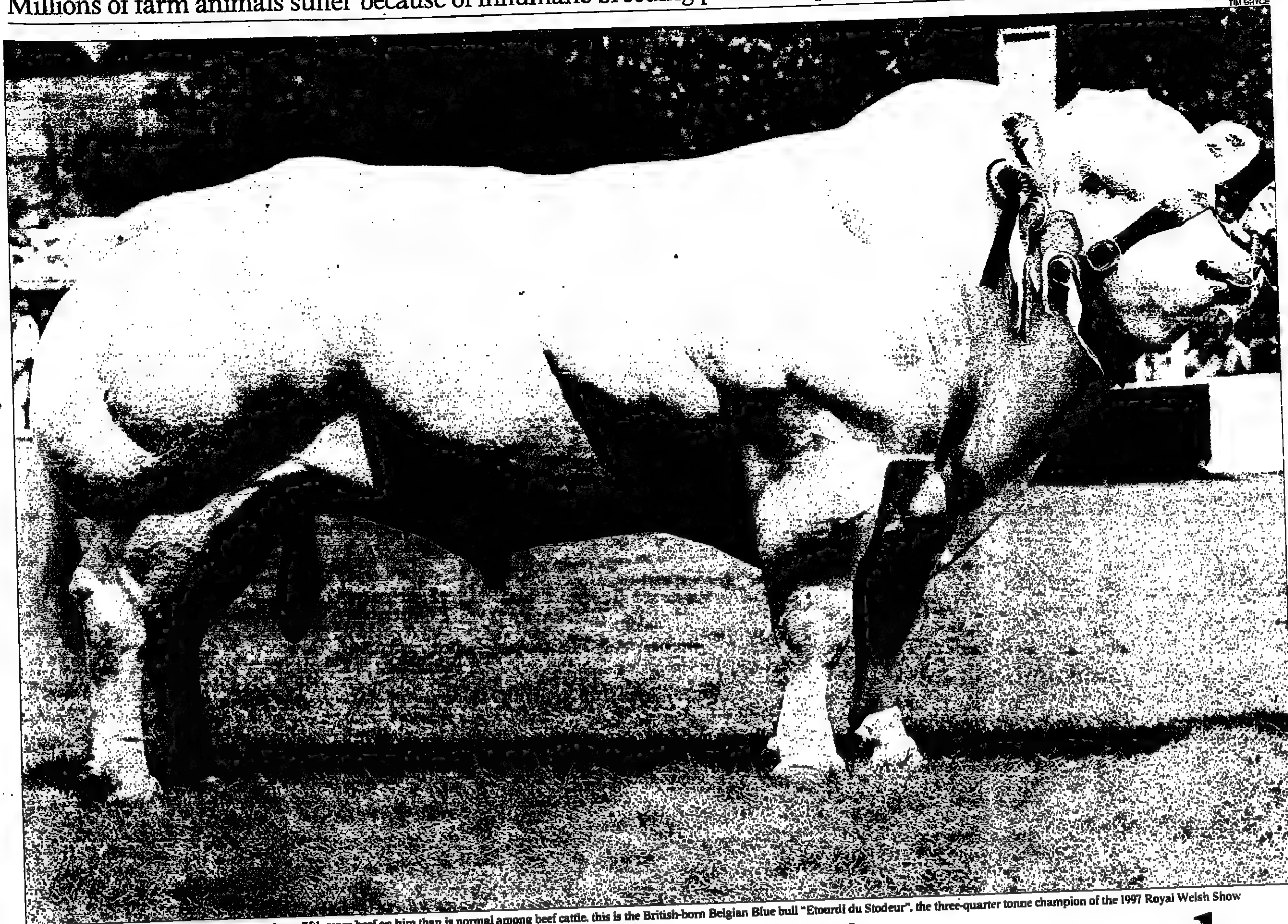
THE TIMES weekend

Linley on
his exotic
Caribbean
hideaway
gardening - 5



SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Millions of farm animals suffer because of inhumane breeding policies to produce cheap food. **Colin Tudge reports**



Over-sized muscles bulging, and carrying a fifth more beef on him than is normal among beef cattle, this is the British-born Belgian Blue bull "Emourdu du Stodeur", the three-quarter tonne champion of the 1997 Royal Welsh Show

The freaks of the farmyard

The Arnold Schwarzenegger of the cattle world was on parade this week: a Belgian Blue bull; a caricature of muscle more incredible Hulk than Michelangelo, weighing three-quarters of a tonne and with a fifth more beef on him than is normal. Typically, it was brought into the world by caesarean section.

Geneticists announced that they had identified the particular mutant gene that underpins its muscularity and, as they grow more skilled in genetic engineering, they will doubtless transfer it to other breeds.

Meat should become cheaper yet again — and farming yet more cruel. So where and when will we draw the line?

The muscles on the new Belgian Blue are hardly functional. They are not designed for movement; they are merely sacs of flesh. If children were afflicted with a mutation such as this, it would be seen as a genetic disease and a charity would be founded to root it out, just as there are charities for cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy.

The wild ancestor of

Europe's cattle, the auroch, is extinct, but there are plenty of other wild cattle around which show that even the biggest are as lithe as light-heavyweight boxers. The gaur of India is two metres tall and can leap a fence of its own height almost from a standing jump. The fighting bulls of Spain, albeit domestic and small by the standards of the wild, retain the natural agility of their ancestors. But I have seen Belgian Blues, and other such pitiable beasts, at agricultural shows and they can scarcely walk. They shuffle round the show-ring, trailing their feet. To be sure, no farmer wants a bull that can leap like a stag, but neither should he breed cripples.

Such hugeness can be attained by several physiological routes. Some mutant genes simply cause certain muscles to duplicate: so-called "double-muscling" as seen, for example, in some Charolais cattle.

Such a deformity is as grotesque in its way as two heads would be, or six legs, even though it is evident only to those versed in anatomy.

Other genes change the relative rates of growth of body



Modern overweight, feeble-boned pigs slump on to their hocks, and turkeys can hardly stand

tissues. In young mammals, in general, the bones develop first — which is why foals seem all legs and puppies are all knees. The muscles develop next, so that adolescents of all species tend to be skinny but agile. Fat is laid down last of all, so that mature beasts — and people — "fill out". But to the farmer, muscle is meat and fat is

succulence or "finish", while bones are a dead loss. So animals bred to become muscle-bound are obese even before they have the bones to support their flesh. For this reason, modern turkeys can hardly stand, and poultry handlers often break the bones of chickens just by lifting them from the cages. When did you last see an



unbroken chicken wishbone? Overweight, feeble-boned pigs that should stand on tip-toes slump on to their hocks, while hulking Belgian Blues can scarcely walk.

So should we all become vegetarians?

Well no, of course, if vegetarianism is defined in the usual meaty mouthed fashion, and

allows consumption of milk and eggs. After all, no animals are treated more harshly than dairy cattle and hens.

The genetic equivalent of the benighted Belgian Blue is the super-milky Friesian. Many already give 2,000 gallons per year — about six times as much as a wild cow — but they are now being bred to provide 4,000 gallons — with a little help from genetic engineers, who are fitting them with genes to boost their growth hormone. Such monsters must be milked four times a day.

Before these beasts can produce milk at all, they must first give birth, but only about one in ten of the calves is required as a herd replacement.

What do "lacto" vegetarians imagine happens to the other nine? They are, of course, slaughtered — and, since this must be the case, it seems almost sinful just to throw their carcasses away. It is certainly profligate.

From all points of view it is surely more sensible and, indeed, ethically more justified to

raise them for a couple of years on grass and then slaughter them for beef.

The ovo component of the lacto-ovo vegetarian diet is similarly flawed. Modern hens are expected to produce at least 300 eggs in a year, which is probably at least ten times as many as they would lay in the wild; and doubtless the genetic engineers will soon be extracting even more, with less food. Old hens — which these days means any that are more than about 18 months old — are knocked on the head, just like old cows.

Taken all in all, the lacto-ovo vegetarians have hardly less blood on them than the rest of us.

Should we then eschew all animal products, as vegans do? Not if we accept the principal of ethics proposed by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), which says that we should do nothing that we would not in conscience recommend to everyone; and that veganism worldwide would be a disaster, both agriculturally and nutritionally. Of course,

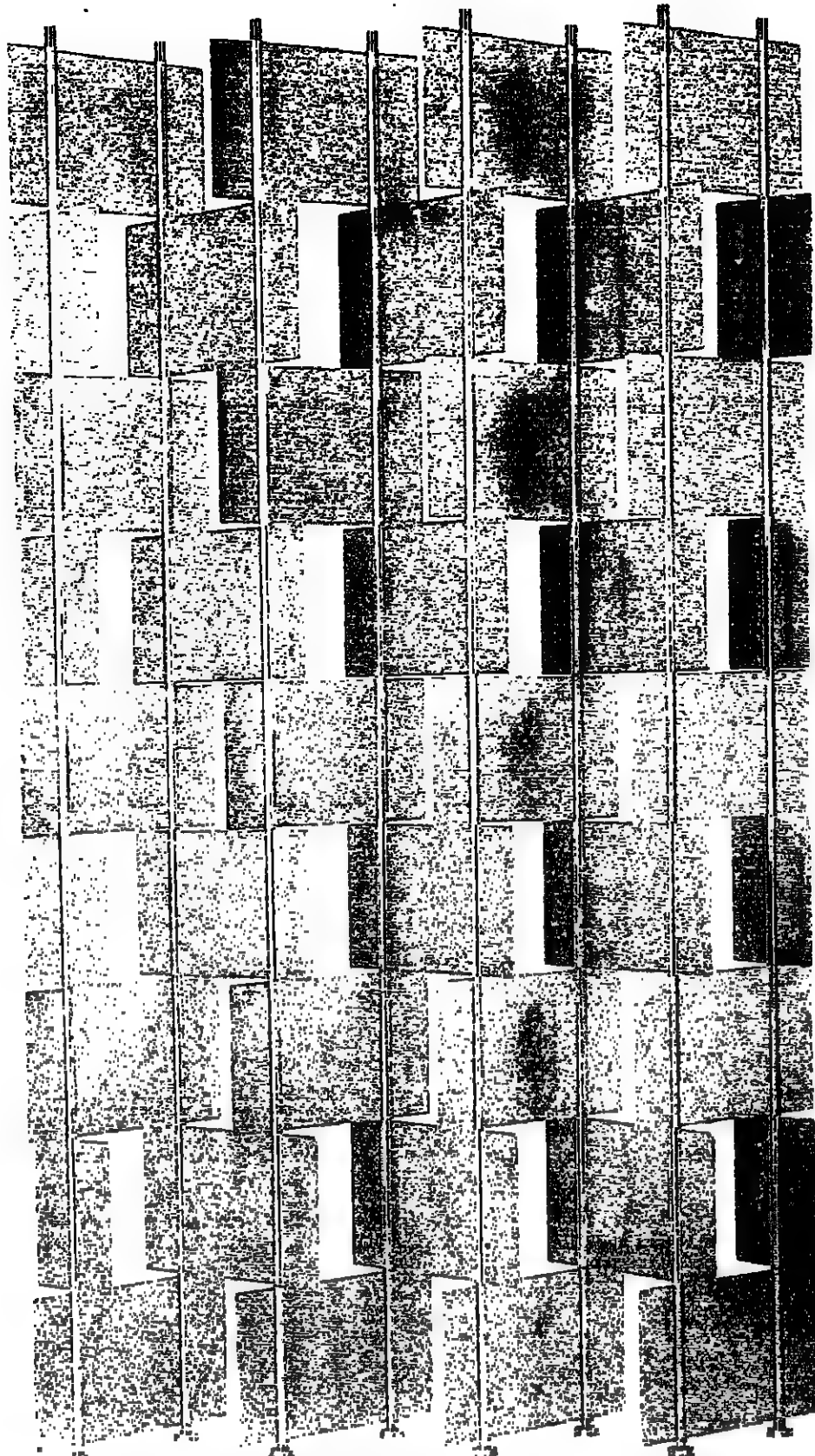
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Moving screen drama

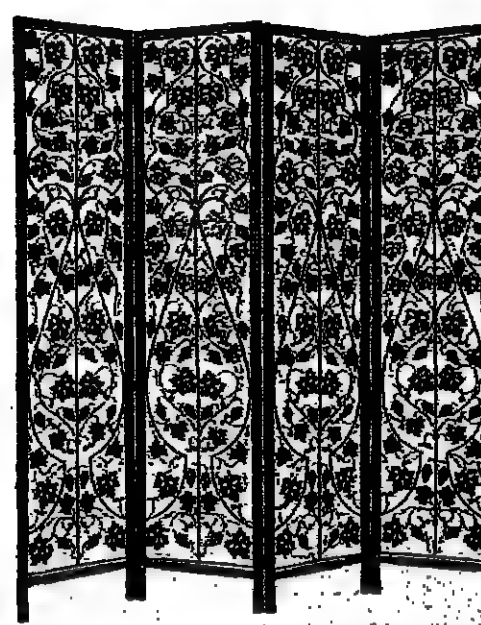
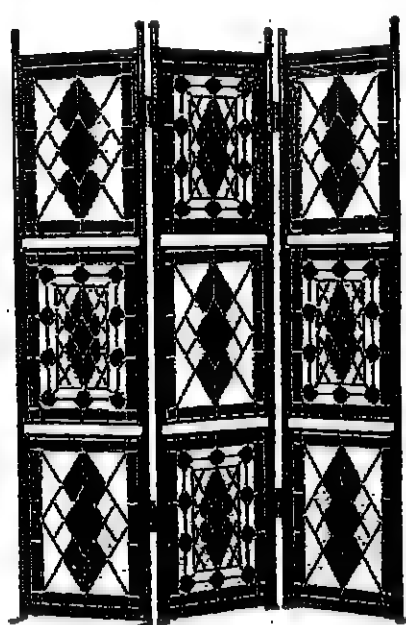
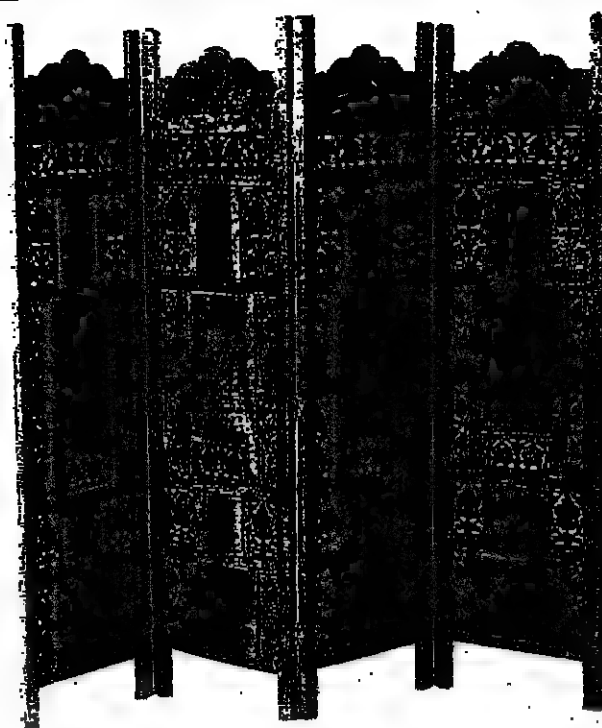
There's no easier, more flexible way to divide those open-plan spaces and create pockets of privacy or cosy zones than screening, says Sophie Chamier



LEFT: "Eileen", a multipanelled aluminium and stainless-steel screen inspired by the 1920s designer Eileen Gray, with articulating panels which can be added and folded. From the furniture designer Andrew Tye. £1,680 (0171-738 3451)

RIGHT: Made in India, a hand-carved, four-panel screen in Sheesham wood, in two sizes: 130cm (£215) and 175cm (£265). Both prices include delivery. From The India Shop, 5 Hilliers Yard, Marlborough, Wiltshire (01672 515585)

BELOW: stained-glass screen, hand-made to order in any size by Philippa Hayes (0171-738 8819); metal frames forged by Dave Freedman of Iron Man Metal Designs (0370 234961). Prices range from £200 for a small grate screen to about £950 for a three-section, folding full-height model



ABOVE: crackle-glass finish Chrysler MDF screen, with resin windows for personal picture inserts, by Indra Fletcher-Jones and Felicity Warbrick, £650, Mew Design, 87 Great Western Road, London, W9 (0171-289 5821)

LEFT: wrought-iron, four-panel screen with wire-mesh and grape detail in black or green, £380, The General Trading Company, 144 Stoney Street, SW1 (mail order, 0171-370 0411)

'These sad, deformed creatures could be the final flourish of a grisly past'

Continued from page 1
we can produce ten times or more protein or calories by growing cereal for bread than we could by feeding that same cereal to livestock and then eating the meat. But this merely proves that it is profitable, in general, to give food to animals that we might have eaten ourselves. It certainly does not demonstrate that food production based totally on plants is more efficient, taken overall, than an agriculture that also includes some animals. Livestock can be raised on land that cannot be used for crops — on steep hills, for example, or in semi-deserts — and can be fed on by-products and leftovers that human beings cannot eat, from pea stalks and straw to "tail-corn".

Of course, all-plant agriculture should be enormously productive, but no matter how bountiful it is, it would always be possible to squeeze in a few animals without substantially increasing inputs.

For most people in the world, too, animal products provide only a small proportion of the total energy and protein, and it may look, at first sight, as if they could do without them altogether. Yet that small proportion is crucial. Animal protein is of high quality and animal products in general are a vital source of recondite micronutrients, such as calcium and zinc. A worldwide policy of veganism (assuming such a thing were feasible) would sign many millions of death warrants.

Human beings are natural omnivores and, as such — since hunting on a globally significant scale is an obvious non-starter — we are effectively obliged to keep livestock. But this cannot mean that we should give ourselves *carte blanche* to treat them without respect. We should surely contrive to raise farm animals as kindly as possible and then, after a life as fulfilled as we can make it, to dispatch them quickly and efficiently.

The key is to find out what animals prefer, and then to match the husbandry to their preferences. Although it may seem hard to read the minds of cattle, pigs and poultry, much of the necessary research has already been carried out. Notably, the late David Wood-Gush at Edinburgh University in the late 1980s showed that sows, when given the opportunity, build nests of straw for their piglets and raise them in family groups while the boars, commonly considered to be murderous, stand by in happy attendance. This is the kind of



Friesians can already yield 2,000 gallons of milk a year, but they are now being bred to give twice that amount

husbandry we ought to encourage, and livestock should be bred accordingly. Berkshire pigs, for example, were traditionally selected and bred largely for their mothering skills — not to grow so quickly that they are obliged to stand more like bears than pigs.

At Oxford University, Marian Stamp Dawkins reveals the preferences of chickens by measuring the efforts they are prepared to make to achieve particular goals. She has found that they will work hard to find their way to a nestbox to lay their eggs. This matters more to them than the occasional sniff of grass that currently qualifies the farmers to sell them as "free range". In short, it is possible to discover what animals like and to treat them accordingly.

But meat, eggs and milk produced by truly humane methods of husbandry would be expensive. Present-day factory methods reduce the costs by several-fold — perhaps in some cases even ten-fold. Breeding brings the costs down still further: a Belgian Blue that packs hundreds of pounds of meat on to a skeleton like a clothes horse would almost certainly eat less than a primitive bull that was lean and lithe.

Rate of growth is even more important than the disposition

of the flesh. If animals can grow twice as quickly, the throughput is doubled and the profit increases even more, since the fixed costs are spread over more beasts.

Every incremental rise in rate of growth, however, will mean that the meat will be cheaper for the consumer. Even so, if the cruelty simply led to greater profits for the food producers, we would protest more vehemently than we do, because then we could take the conventional snipe at the far cuts. But cheap food in Britain is perceived to serve a social purpose. It has achieved almost a religious status: a symbol of our enlightenment, of our innate humanity to our fellow human beings. Henry IV of France wanted to see a chicken in every peasant's pot and, though no one bothers with pots any more, there is poultry galore on every barbecue — and pork chops and beefsteaks as well.

In short we justify the cruelty by pretending that without it our fellow citizens would suffer more. Well-fed members of the middle class like me, who suggest that livestock farming should be humane and, therefore, that meat should be expensive, are seen merely to be effete.



Above: the genetic engineers call it a geep — a cross between a goat and a sheep: a tough, woolly milker. Right: broiler chickens are reared for meat, not eggs, and can suffer horrendous injuries to their bones

But what a fake that argument is. Britain is a rich country, and if there are people here who cannot afford meat, then this is because we choose, as a matter of policy, to tolerate poverty. Cheap meat is the palliative, we ameliorate the injustice to human beings by being even more cruel to farm animals. What kind of morality is that? Then again, even the most dyed-in-the-wool champions of the free

markets acknowledge that the economy of agriculture has to be manipulated, if only because the product is so vital, while the productivity is prey to factors that are beyond control and yet are potentially devastating — notably the weather. Even in Margaret Thatcher's day, Britain's farming was subject to the entire gamut of state interventions — quotas, grants, subsidies, support buying and all the rest.

ENGINEERED ANIMALS

DEEP CATTLE: Many are now so misshapen that caesarean deliveries are inevitable. They also suffer from lameness.

PIGS: Fast growth rates mean that legs are unable to keep up with the rest of the body. They suffer from painful joints.

CHICKENS: The modern broiler reaches its slaughter weight in just six weeks. Its bones are so feeble that they break on contact; it also suffers heart disease.

DAIRY COWS: Today's cow is producing ten times as much milk as her calf would have drunk; selective breeding is likely to double the output.

TURKEYS: Selective breeding means turkeys are so 'fleshy' that they cannot physically mate. Artificial insemination is the only answer.



EXPERTS SAY

■ Donald Broom, Colleen Macleod Professor of Animal Welfare at Cambridge University's Veterinary School, on rearing animals so that their bodies are growing too fast for their legs: "It is like a child who is nine years old in weight having to stand on the legs, say, of a five-year-old."

On turkeys: "It is unreasonable that almost all members of a widely used breeding line are unable to perform a normal biological function like mating."

■ Professor John Webster, head of Bristol University's Veterinary School, on broilers: "It is absolutely not right that animals in their first few weeks of life should be experiencing heart disease... should be crippled by their breeding."

■ The Farm Animal Welfare Council reported leg problems among broilers on nearly every farm it visited. Another study found that 90 per cent of intensively reared broilers had a detectable abnormality in their gait.

our sole criterion, then the "Schwarzenegger" bull could be the symbol of the future. But we could go down the route of humanity, and then these sad, deformed creatures would represent the final flourish of the grisly past.

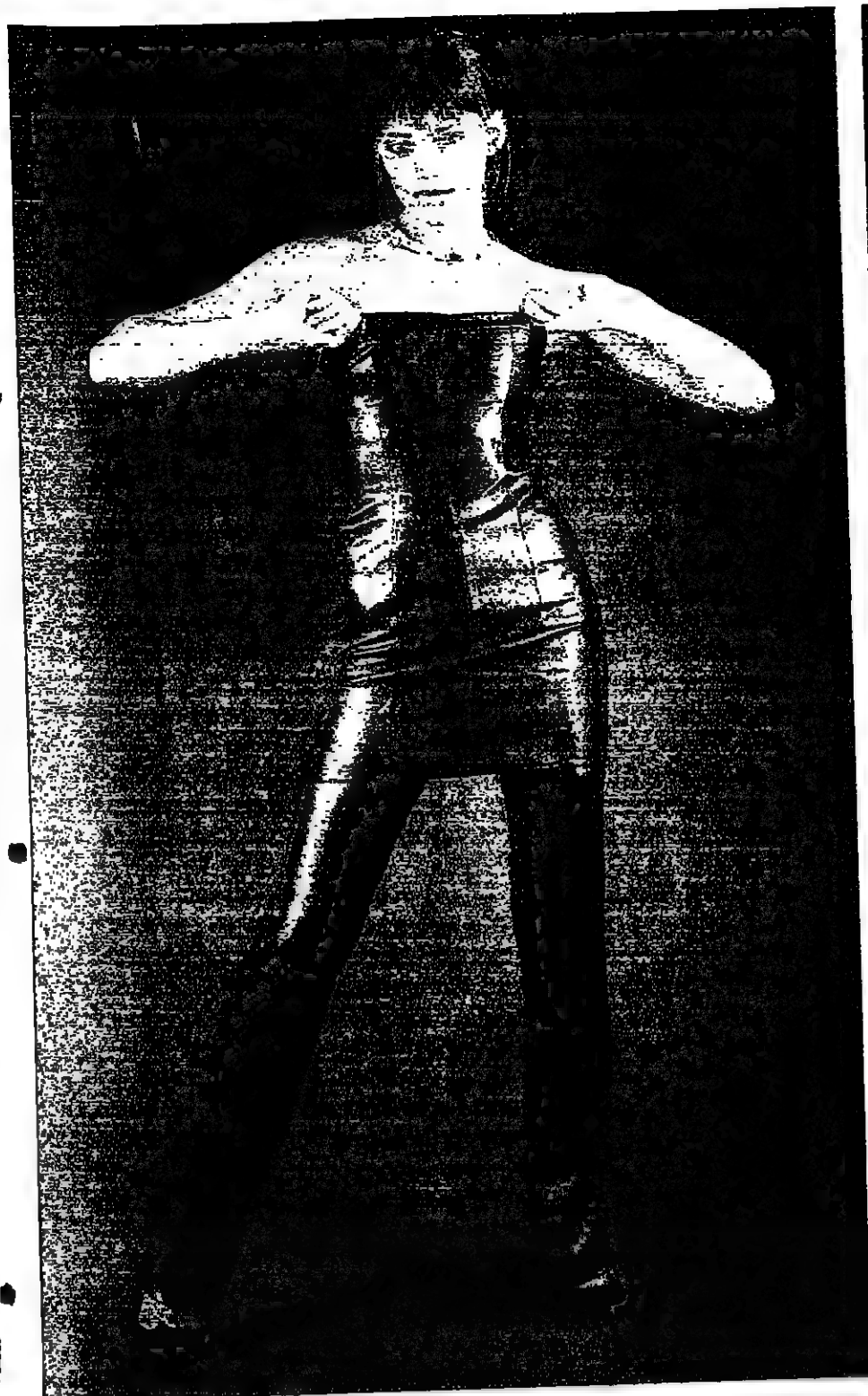
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© Colin Tudge is a Research Fellow of the Centre for Philosophy at the London School of Economics.

WEEKEND • SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Don't put away your summer dresses just yet; they will be perfect with slacks, **Heath Brown** writes

Women who wear the trousers too



If you are shy about your legs and dare not even think about wearing the new micro-mini styles — or even an above-the-knee hemline — then this season's trend for teaming trousers with dresses is for you.

It is a simple combination that takes its influence from Asian cultures. Diana, Princess of Wales and Jemima Khan have worn the look (albeit out of respect for cultural mores) and have influenced a new wave of Eastern styling that is taking on a modern Western edge.

Designers Pierce Fionda, Copperwheat Blundell and Dries van Noten have all included this style in their collections, with sleek and elegant combinations, as well as those that are hard and streetwise.

Alongside these full dress-and-trouser composites there is a range of separates on the racks that, with a little ingenuity, can be mixed and matched with your own favourites. . .

Whether you choose a pair of soft, flowing pants from Marks & Spencer with a Sportmax tunic-style dress or a slimline Morgan trousers coupled with a modern Warehouse frock, if you follow a few basic guidelines it will be a combination that is timeless, ageless and will suit most body shapes. It is a perfect style to conceal larger hips and thighs, although it is important to choose the dress lengths and trouser styles carefully.

If you are tall or have long legs, you should go for wider-flowing palazzo trousers, with



ABOVE: leather strapless tube dress, £49.99, Morgan, selected branches nationwide (0171-383 2888). Soft leather trousers, £120, Plein Sud, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-487 4484). Silver torque, £14.95, Fenwick, 83 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-529 9181). Black suede ankle-tie T-bar shoes, £241, Maud Frizon, Mirni Low, 309 King's Road, SW3 (0171-349 9699).

LEFT: chocolate fine-knit dress, £35, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422); Tweed trousers, £129, Sportmax, Ferwick, as before

BELOW RIGHT: red jersey side-ruched dress, £40; matching trousers, £35. Warehouse, branches nationwide (0171-278 3491). Black T-bar shoes, as before. Gold and red stone drop necklace, £59; earrings, £49. Erikson Berman, Fenwick, as before

a dress hem stopping around the knee, which will accentuate a slim silhouette but not make you look too lanky. For the shorter frame, trousers are best kept slightly slimmer, with the dress stopping well above the knee, at about thigh length. This will avoid your legs appearing too short.

For the fuller frame, it is important to keep clear of mixing colours too drastically. Darker pants with a lighter top will shorten and widen your appearance, while a darker dress will hide a fuller

bust but may be disproportionate to your legs. Darker shades overall are better and will disguise more.

If you want more tonal variation, block colours, in slightly differing tones, are good — light beige with camel, red with pink or silvery blue. Or, for a more Bohemian look, try mixing dramatic patterns.

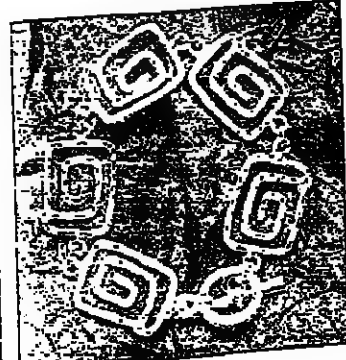
Dresses to choose for daywear are best loose and flowing, in lighter fabrics such as chiffon. For evening, team floaty, luxurious dresses with matching or jersey trousers.

THREE OF A KIND

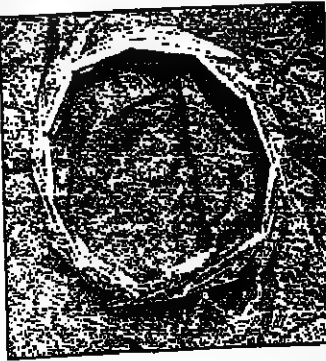
A THIN, silver bangle with a hint of decoration is a perfect accessory for this exotic layered look. Here are three of the best. HB



RIGHT: chunky bangle, £24.95, Ferwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)



LEFT: bracelet with square coils, £4.99, Accessorise branches (0171-313 3000)



RIGHT: Hand-made arrowpoint bracelet with zirconia stones. £1100, Slim Barrett (0171-354 9393)



Photographs: **Richard Burns**. Hair and make-up: **Michelle Marsh** using **Hard Candy** Styling. **Amandip Uppal**

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STEPHEN ANDERTON

A *Plumbago capensis* is from South Africa and not hardy. It is a little late in the year to take cuttings now, so when the weather cools down next month, soak the roots heavily one day, and dig it up with a big

A Lift them next month before the frosts start and pot them up in trays or individually. However, you cannot keep them warm and dark; if they are warm, they will try to grow and die for lack of light. Put them somewhere cool (40F-45F, 5C-7C) with a little light—a north window, porch or light garage is fine. Keep them quite dry or they will try to grow; they must stand still and “hibernate”. When spring comes, gradually give a little water, then increase the water and light as growth starts.

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Sprinklers are efficient, so why are water companies holding gardeners to ransom, asks **Stephen Anderton**



Children love playing with lawn sprinklers, but water companies take a dim view of such water-wasting antics. Lawns are not worth watering anyway because they can always be revived

Gunning for the sprinklers

As far as I know, Diana, Princess of Wales has not yet joined the campaign to do away with garden sprinklers. But did you know that Southern Water recently held an amnesty in which people who were harbouring sprinklers in their garden sheds and attics could hand them in

without retribution? And to encourage the offending owners to come clean, the company offered a free hand-held spray gun to every penitent.

Well now, this fascinates me. At the end of a lousy wet June, Hozelock, the sprinkler and irrigation manufacturer, was reported in *The Times* to be laying off workers, because

of slow demand for its products. Now, in August, we hear that Hozelock made a deal with Horeau Water to supply the spray guns for its amnesty. Ten Thousand spray guns, worth £11.59 each, were given away in less than two weeks, according to a report in *Horticulture Week*, knocking the bottom out of the local retail-

Southern Water's community relations executive, David Williams, says the promotion "brought home the message that sprinklers waste water".

Do we gardeners accept that? Not absolutely, I hope. It is fair to say that nobody would ever stand holding a hosepipe for as long as he or she would allow a sprinkler to run. Boredom is the greatest of all savers of water. This is why water authorities will permit people to stand and direct a hose when they have banned sprinklers.

The trouble with all this is that it assumes everyone has the same water pressure. I have friends for whom holding and directing a hose pipe is like trying to resist the embraces of a randy mamba: the pressure is terrific. And I have gardened in places where the pressure was so poor that an oscillating sprinkler simply refused to oscillate.

For a gardener to be hit by a blanket sprinkler ban when pressure is locally so poor would be hard indeed. When pressure is poor, it is a struggle to water those plants which genuinely need it. (I am talking about flowering plants here, not lawns, which can

SPRAY AND SPRINKLE FACTFILE



Duzo20 sprinkler

- The new Hozelock Duzo20 sprinkler, which is designed to operate at lower pressures and has two kinds of nozzle, costs £34.99 rrp and is available from good garden centres (W.H. Smith, Do It All and Sainsbury's Homebase).
- The Hozelock hand-spray offered free by Southern Water was the Spraygun with rose head model. It costs £11.59 rrp.
- For further details call Hozelock, telephone 01844 292003.

always be revived and are not worth watering.) in where it is applied with no run off, wasting no water o

If I have an argument with sprinkler design, it is that they are all made with good pressure in mind. Most oscillating sprinklers under good pressure will raise an arc 8ft-10ft high, and under high pressure even higher. They will also move backwards and forwards much faster. Under low

pressure they have only one virtue: if they cannot water a large area quickly, at least they can apply water gently to one plant.

Even where pressure is good, you can always turn the tap down, so that flow is reduced and the arc is small. This is the way to water when it is not absolutely essential. An oscillating trickle left under a shrub will put the water on the roots where it is needed, at a speed which means it all soaks

Southern Water may feel it has struck a blow for its public image by encouraging people not to use sprinklers; but will the hand-held sprayer gun do the same job? I think not: unless people are very persistent about how long the water will stand over a particular plant.

It is all too easy with a sprayer to wet the surface or, at the very best, to get a few inches down, but never so

the roots. And that, as all gardeners know, is not good for the plants. It encourages surface rooting, which compounds the problems of drought, and it still leaves the plant thirsty. Give me a sprinkler turned down low any day.

Unfortunately, most oscillating sprinklers grind to a halt at very low pressures. I found Hozelock's as bad as any. But this year, Hozelock has brought out a new sprinkler, the Duo20, which is "designed to operate at lower pressures." Just when the company is promoting spray guns it has got the sprinkler right.

The Duo20 has a device which, when pressure is low, diverts more water from the output nozzles to the drive mechanism, to ensure it keeps moving. I have tried it in several gardens, and it does seem to work. Whether it will continue to do so in old age I am not sure. Oscillating sprinklers, which are only just managing to turn, will sometimes stick because of roughness in the drive gears, or a flake of limescale in the gears. Then it is necessary, and simple, to open the sprinkler and to let the water run through freely to wash out any irritating particles.

Better still, the Duo20 has two kinds of nozzle. On one side is the usual arc of tall jets in variable number. On the other are five gentler spray jets, which put out a blanket of spray over a much narrower area. Using this side of the sprinkler on low pressure or with the tap turned down, you have an excellent means of delivering water to a small area of garden.

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
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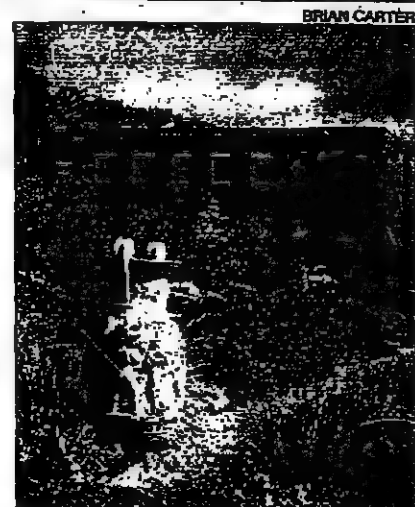
The estate of more than 5,000 acres of breathtaking Devon countryside surrounds a country house and a garden of distinction, historically and horticulturally. Great names have been involved at Killerton, including John Veitch, of the legendary Devon nursery family, during the late 18th century, and William Robinson nearly a century later. Most of all, Killerton is favoured by tree and shrub enthusiasts. The garden's sloping site displays the formidable collection to superb effect and there are many rare treasures: one of England's largest tulip trees and an avenue of some of the first wellingtonias planted in Britain during the last century. There is a succession of spring and summer-flowering trees, such as rose stairwatches, and an enormous collection of rhododendrons.

■ **Tilney Place, Limpsfield, Surrey**
(01883 712124).

Off A25 to Limpsfield, left off High Street into Blue House Lane, right into Water Lane. Open Wed and Sun until Sept 28, 10pm. £2, children £1.

Considering that you can watch the traffic sweeping along the M25 from many parts of the garden, Titsey retains a sense of serenity and, if you look from the front of

GARDENS TO VISIT



Killerton: treasury of trees and shrubs

the house across meadows with grazing cattle sloping up to the wooded ridge of the North Downs, you can easily forget where you are. House and garden sit undisturbed for generations before recent restoration by the Titsey Foundation and opening to the public. Around the house the lawns are shaded by trees, and at one end the grass is broken by double 'herbaceous borders leading away, with a rose garden to one side. The best surviving feature of the older landscape is the water garden, with ornamental

feeding the other through a cascade and crossed by a stone bridge. But the highlight of the restoration is the walled kitchen garden on a sloping site above the house, sheltered and sun-catching, with glasshouses and fruit and vegetable planting to recall the Victorian original.

■ Shandy Hall, Coxwold, North
Yorkshire (01347 868465)

Off A19 between York and Thirsk to Easingwold and then Coxwold. Open daily (except Sat) to end Sept, Ham-4.30pm. £1.50.

Literary connections and beautifully arranged border planting are the two prizes of Shandy Hall at this time of year. During the 18th century, it was home to Laurence Sterne, the enigmatic author of *Tristram Shandy*, and the charming house has been preserved to give a sense of his period. Beyond the out-buildings, low stone walls enclose one area with herbaceous borders around a central lawn. Once you have captured the view of the North, York, Moor and the romantic Byland Abbey, the arrangement of the plants merits attention. On another side, gnarled apple trees lead to the similarly enclosed but more secluded Old Garden, where old-fashioned roses are underplanted with geraniums and other perennials. From here the quarry garden lies across a meadow, which rewards the visitor with a picture of naturalistic gardening throughout the year.

GEORGE PILMPTRE

Blue blood, green thumbs

ME AND MY GARDEN: VISCOUNT LINLEY

The price of tomatoes should not bother someone with a pad in the Caribbean whose father-in-law owns a vast amount of property and whose aunt is the Queen. But Viscount Linley still blanches at the price of tomatoes on Mustique: £5/lb. So he took seed from England last year and tried growing them and basil, also from seed. The former failed, the latter thrived.

So far his attempts at self-sufficiency on Mustique, in the house he and his wife, Serena, were given by Princess Margaret ten years ago, have had mixed results. His newspaper did so last year, it produced a single fruit, which ripened only when the Linleys left. On the other hand, their limes, tangerines and oranges thrive in an area protected from the high wind, a constant factor on Mustique.

While there, they eat mainly chicken, rice and fruit — the locals' diet. Lobsters are almost always eaten only on special occasions.

Lord Linley's gardening skills may only be at development stage, but his pedigree in such matters is impeccable. On one side of his family are the Queens. Mother (my grandmother) knows all the Latin names and Princess Margaret (also a hot gardener). On the other are his father, the Earl of Snowdon, and his ancestor Ludwig Messel, who created the beautiful West Sussex garden of Nymans, boasting magnolias, possibly the first heath garden and a fabulous topiary.

But his forebears' skill and passion seem to have escaped Lord Linley. "Unless you have your own garden, it is difficult to appreciate gardening in a way you will remember."

When he took over his mother's house on Mustique, he decided to turn the ten-acre, salt-drenched landscape around the house into a garden. "I had never planted a thing in my life. We had to



Viscount and Viscountess Linley at home in Mustique

start from scratch. The first thing we did was to put in a watering system. It is an American one designed for golf courses. It is the one used by everybody else on the island, but mine is the only one that worked."

Water has to be bought from the Mustique Water Company and most of it is desalinated seawater. A thick layer of shredded coconut-shell fibre helps to keep evaporation, and the ground is given a fillip by artificial fertiliser.

Before starting work on the garden, Lord Linley "drew a vague plan" that incorporated his mother's swimming pool, "which I regret". In fact, he has made the pool an elegant focal point.

"From the house, as you look out, I have designed the view so that you see only white and green. Then, on the terraces down from the house and on either side, the bright colours begin. There is so much to focus on from the house that I didn't want colour there, too," he says.

Views from Les Jolies Eaux open down a flight of steps to the pool, across the tops of tropical trees and the spiky

spheres of agaves to the sea and tiny islands beyond. Now there is grass where once was brown scrub, the rough, thick-leaved type typical of the Caribbean. And Lord Linley has planted three types of frangipani, including a white-flowered variety native to Mustique, and Hawaiian

frangipani, which has creamy flowers. It is not a very flowery garden, and floral arrangements rarely decorate the house; pineapples, mangoes and bananas are used instead. "The wind is so strong here that flowers get ripped out of their vases," says Lord Linley.

From the sparkling blue water of the swimming pool, looking back up a long flight of steps to the long, low, white-washed home that Princess Margaret built on land given to her as a wedding present, a "sick tree" waves bamboo-like wands 30ft into the air.

Lord Linley has designed and built two pavilions in the garden "from anything that was about — that is why I made the pillars for one pavilion from moulded concrete". One, on a headland planted with a few cacti and agaves, is a simple, rectangular, wall-less structure with a double hammock hanging beneath a

cedar shingle roof. "The hammock is so comfortable that it is extremely difficult to get people out of it."

The other pavilion contains the master bedroom and bathroom, built on the foundations of the old garage, away from the main house. Folly building is in the blood: Lord Snowdon built one in his small garden in London.

Lord Linley tried planting palms by taking washed-up coconuts from the beach, but that did not work. So he planted cabbage palms for their attractive red nuts.

Fired by enthusiasm for his newly made garden, Lord Linley then invited a specialist in tropical gardening to view his work. Crushingly, the only plant that held the expert's attention was a "weed" that had gone unnoticed — a rare orchid with long white petals in an uncultivated part of the garden.

Country Life magazine commissioned Lord Linley to make some furniture for its garden at the Chelsea Flower Show this year. Sturdy English oak tables and seats that can be left outside year round resulted, with urn-shaped decorations designed to have cushions looped over them so

they stay in place at the seat backs. This garden activity has so enthused Lord Linley that he is now a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and a regular reader of *The Garden*. He and his wife visit gardens often: his favourites are Hidcote in Gloucestershire and Heale in Wiltshire.

Now, at his apartment on the third-floor of a converted old schoolhouse in London, he has to make do with a terrace the size of a dining-room table, on which he keeps 18th-century terracotta pots bursting with blue hydrangeas, miniature white roses and jasmine — all of which come indoors when there is a dinner party to decorate the table.

It has taken a while for the little boy who used to spend his time playing in the garden at his grandmother's house, Royal Lodge, to catch up with his latent passion. "I loved the rhododendrons and azaleas in my grandmother's garden. Some of the colours are garish, I suppose, but I love the smell of azaleas."

JANE OWEN

Les Jolies Eaux on Mustique can be rented for holidays; ring Lord Linley's office on 0171-730 7300



The gardens are not particularly flowery, and fruit rather than floral arrangements decorate the house as "the wind rips flowers from the vases"

Keep picking sweet peas for indoors to ensure a late supply of flowers.

Take seed heads off lilies (unless seed is required) to strengthen bulbs for next year. Species paeonies, such as *veitchii* and *mloksewitschii*, which can be grown from seed, are producing ripe seed now. Collect it as the pods split, before it falls.

Straggling plants of diascia may have the older flowering stems cut back hard to produce a stronger display into the autumn.

Complete the clipping of box bushes and hedges.

Christmas cacti which have been resting dry on their sides in the shade can be set upright again in full light. Gradually reintroduce water.

Potatoes with telltale blotches of blight should have the haulms cut off and burnt. Do not put them on the compost heap because the infection will spread.

Summer-sown cabbage, broccoli and kale can be lifted from seed rows or pots and transplanted into their final positions. Water well.

Ensure that all vegetables have plenty of water, especially runner beans, celery, Florence fennel and courgettes.

Start dividing irises over the next few weeks. The bearded border hybrids of all sizes are best divided up into individual flat rhizomes. The beardless species such as *chrysographes*, *forrestii*, *fontidissima* and *versicolor* are best broken up into

small clumps of about four to five rhizomes.

Maintain dead-heading of daisy flowers such as *helianthus*, *dahlias*, *cosmos* and *Shasta daisies* (now

known as *Leucanthemum x superbum*, not *Chrysanthemum maximum*). Removal of the spent heads and a length of stem will allow a better second crop.

Complete the clipping of box and bush hedges

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HERO is the ultimate conservatory blind. It is a

That Millennium Dome plan: if only the Government could think more like good farmers and less like cheque-happy parvenus...

Here's the answer, Mr Mandelson

I suppose it is none of my business, but if Mr Mandelson had rung me first before firing off contracts hither and thither for the roof of his Millennium Dome, I could have saved him a lot of trouble and embarrassment.

If only he had told me he wanted to get his exhibition under cover cheaply and quickly I could have told him he had no need of either German or American hi-tech operators: he should have rung a farmer. This is what farmers do all the time, flinging covers over things, keeping out the rain, taking them down when they've finished so that you would never know they'd been there. They offer cheap, speedy and environmentally sound solutions to transient problems, as a spin-doctor might put it.

I can imagine the scene down at Greenwich: architects and engineers tapping on computers, working out stresses, loads, environmental impact assessments. But put two old farmers in their place, and I bet they would look at each other and say: "We'll put a tilt over it" (farmer-speak for a tarpaulin). One would warn of wind, to which the other would reply: "There's some old tyres in

the back o' the barn. We'll spread them around a bit. That'll keep damned thing down." To which his mate would reply: "But they say that's goin' to be a hell of a lot of people there and they'll all want somewhere to sit." The first farmer would pause, then turn thoughtfully to his son and ask: "How many bales o' straw we got left in the barn?"

Fanciful? Of course. But the point is that when something needs improvising and time is short, there is no one more experienced than a farmer. Some have refined this skill to the level of artistry usually seen in the best magicians. A farmer can take an old bedstead, three plastic bags and a sheep hurdle and come up with anything from a lambing shelter to a makeshift grain silo in 15 minutes. I have seen it done. The only difference between farmers and magicians is that the sorcerers have wands while the farmers have old bale string. And any farmer who cannot perform this

magic should be held in the greatest suspicion. Beware the farm where all problems are solved by a signature on a cheque, not by application of the mind. The farms where all the gates are newly hung, the buildings clad in fresh asbestos, the roofs made new with plastic-coated sheeting are ones to treat with caution: the culture of tidy, timid industrialisation has got a firm hold. Or else the chap is a gentleman parvenu, playing at it.

Instead, look for the farmer who has taken half a dozen discarded telegraph poles, a pile of redundant railway sleepers and a heap of old corrugated

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

keeping pigs, how I thought the only housing worthy of them was bought ready-made: built of steel sheeting bent into an arc, boarded front and back with a sliding door and ventilation slots. I bought one for £150-odd. It lasted six months. Powerful snouts burrowed

under the frame and deformed it, causing the bolts to twist and eventually rust through. The sheeting then exercised its natural instincts to straighten out, and then the ventilation holes would not close, causing draughts, which pigs hate. I tried sticking plastic bags over them, but they invariably blew away.

The next time I wanted to house a few pigs, I kept my money in my pocket and picked up a sledgehammer instead. I drove half a dozen stakes into the ground in the shape of the house I wanted to build, piled bales of straw against them, then drove more stakes around the outside to keep them in place. Total cost so far, about a tenner.

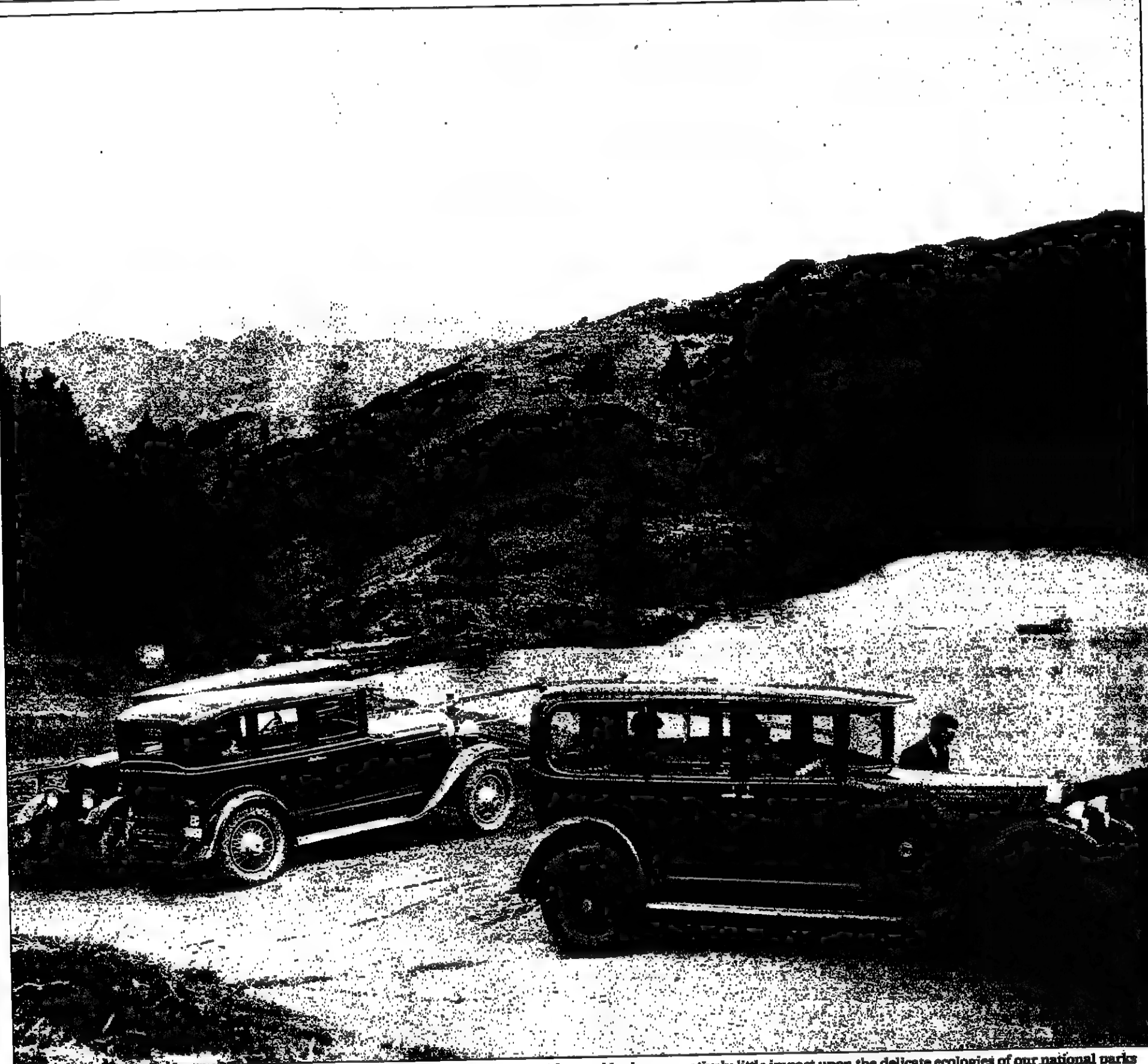
To crown this glorious creation, nothing Teflon-coated or German but a sheet of good old corrugated iron which, to any connoisseur of agricultural architecture, is as much a signature as exposed pipework is to Sir Richard Rogers. I

didn't care what anyone else thought my pig hut looked like: farmers never do. Instead, I waited for the pigs' vote. Needless to say, it was acclaimed. Not only did the straw "breathe" in a way a solid wall never could, the pigs soon learned that this was a resource which they could pluck at to make bedding and shelter. If they plucked too much, you just stoned in a new bale, like Lego. And when the pigs were gone, I took only five minutes' work to remove the stakes and another five to break open the bales and use them to litter the yard, where the horses lived.

Are not all these qualities durability, transportability and affordability what the debate over the Millennium Dome is all about? They tell us it ought to be cheap (well, Clare Short does) and Mr Mandelson wants to take it down and move it around the country when it has done its duty at Greenwich.

I admit bales may not be the complete answer, but cannot help suspecting that the Government would be spending its time and our money better if it learnt to think more like good farmers, and less like cheque-happy parvenus.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They will be published on the last Saturday of the month.



Lakeland leisure motoring, 1930s-style, was a pastime enjoyed by the privileged few and had comparatively little impact upon the delicate ecologies of our national parks

Park space runs out for cars

Motorists flocking to national beauty spots are ruining the very environments they come to see. Now the parks are planning ways to cut drivers out of the scenic picture, says Nick Nuttall

In 1930 an unnamed car-spotter stood on the Whithy to Pickering road counting the cars pootling along the A164. On an average day in August he saw 630 vehicles coming to enjoy the spectacular landscape of the North Yorkshire moors and their pretty, uncongested villages.

Nearly 70 years on, the level of traffic roaring through the area has risen more than tenfold to nearly 8,000 vehicles a day.

The sheer volume of drivers pouring into the ten national parks of England and Wales is triggering growing levels of alarm among villagers and officials who look after these natural jewels.

Bill Breakell, tourism and transport officer at North Yorkshire Moors National Park, says people living in the area now rank cars as their number one concern — well above litter and visitor numbers. "Instead of people seeing open space, they are confronted with miles of metal cans on wheels," he says.

"Most visitors come to the national parks for landscape, peace and tranquillity. This is lost if it is not a national park but a national car park."

Mr Breakell says the influx is polluting the moorland air, and scientists believe there are other subtle impacts: traffic noise can wreck songbirds' mating rites, and nitrogen gases from exhausts may be altering the heathland ecology.

North Yorkshire is now attempting to turn back the clock, and has unveiled a ground-breaking scheme to boost the use of public rather than private transport. Visitors who come



National park traffic is now at crisis levels, but new measures may coax motorists into using their feet

into the park on the Esk valley railway line will be given a £2 daily bus pass, free. Mr Breakell says the key to the project is its investment in frequent, high-quality buses to run on a 150-mile network. Other tougher measures will be unveiled for all the national parks in the autumn. These include tighter speed limits to reduce traffic noise and a campaign against the widening of minor roads. Senior parks officials say that

success depends upon getting the Government to change its policy on funding rural transport schemes. Currently parks and local councils can bid for money for capital investments such as bus lanes and traffic calming. But they need revenue schemes to pay for improved bus and train services. Government backing for these projects, however, is currently harder to secure under existing arrangements.

Martin Fitton, National Parks officer for the Brecon Beacons in Wales, and chairman of the All-Parks Transport Awareness Group, says the anomaly must be addressed: "We have got the situation where we can bid for funds to get a bus lane but not have the revenue to run it."

"People are simply not going to switch from their cars unless they can be certain that the public transport will run regularly and on time. If

another bus is not going to come for an hour, or in some cases a week, it will not work."

He says that a new report, part-funded by the Countryside Commission, will outline plans to cut the speed limits on most roads running through parks, from 60mph to 40mph. The proposal mirrors pilot schemes in the New Forest, and in Dartmoor National Park.

He adds that the new strategy, which involves local authority highways agencies, will ensure that minor roads are not widened to accommodate more cars except in exceptional circumstances.

The strategy will also aim to get people out of their cars for up to an hour by encouraging motorists to walk or cycle to scenic and historic sites within a one-mile radius of their vehicles. More visitor information, bicycle-hire facilities and cycle paths will be needed to achieve this.

Several parks authorities are also drafting plans to contain growth in car numbers. John Baker, of Yorkshire Dales National Park, says that the authorities had agreed to introduce schemes to keep car numbers at the levels recorded in 1994. The park receives 8.3 million visitors a year, and the figure is growing by around 3 per cent annually.

But mightn't this latest anti-car campaign provoke hostility? Sir Chris Bonington, president of the Council of National Parks, says it is a necessary risk: "The outcome is not going to please everyone, and some protests are inevitable," says the mountaineer. "But we need to find the fairest and most acceptable way. There has to be some sort of balance."

Pipits love to have a lark

FEATHER REPORT

BY THE end of August, large numbers of birds are on the move south, but for the most part they slip through the countryside inconspicuously. In fact, the whole saga of autumn migration passes practically unnoticed by human beings. However, one bird that draws attention to itself as it flies overhead is the meadow pipit.

It is a bird of rough pastures and moorland, where it keeps company with skylarks, and it is used to be known as the "tit-lark", or little lark. It is a small, streaky, brown bird with a longish tail — related to the wagtails — and it has a distinctive note and way of flying. Its call-note is a weak "seep, seep-seep", unexciting, yet unmistakable when you get to know it. The migrating flocks use this call as they go, and when you look up you see that characteristic flight — a kind of seesaw action, with the birds constantly dropping down as if they were tired, then climbing again.

In summer they are common on the heather moors and hillsides, and like many birds of heathland, they fly into the sky and sing to announce ownership of the land below. As they go up, their notes get faster, and as they glide down, their song peeps out. They build their nests under tussocks of heather or grass.

There are two other breeding pipits in Britain, the tree pipit and the rock pipit. All three species were often lumped together as "titlarks" until the 18th century, and it was not until the mid-19th century that they acquired their present names. Tree pipits, which are exclusively summer visitors, prefer to breed on the

edge of woodlands. They have a rather similar song flight to the meadow pipit, but climb into the air from a tree branch and parachute down to another one. Rock pipits haunt the coasts, feeding on the shore and breeding on the cliffs. In St Malo I have seen them at the top of the cliffs in the municipal gardens.

However, the meadow pipit is by far the most common species, and vast numbers come down from northern Europe in autumn. Many pass through Britain and others stay for winter. By mid-September they will be arriving steadily on the east coast.

THE British breeding birds come down from the hills, but it is not known how many of them stay in the lowlands or how many go farther south. At any rate, there are plenty of meadow pipits around in the fields in winter.

They feed on the ground, where they have a rather bent posture, and creep about like mice on flexed legs. If you get a good view of them, you can see the "necklace" of dots on either side of their breast. But you see them more often when you disturb them. They fly up with the familiar call-note and, in their jerky way, seem to be going step by step up an invisible ladder into the sky.

DERWENT MAY

What's about? Birds — look out for yellowish young willow warblers and dullest chiffchaffs in gardens and shrubberies. Twitchees — sharp-tailed sandpiper at Salholme Pools, Teesside; black-winged pratincole at Martin Mere, Lancashire; peewee at Mandale, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.



ON THE SPOT: WASDALE, CUMBRIA

Rural recommendations

The place: St Olaf churchyard, Wasdale Head, Cumbria. The view: to the north stands Kirk Fell, south is majestic Scafell Pike and to the east the Great Gable and its back. The appeal: it has England's deepest lake and highest mountain and some of the country's best scenery. Historical interest: the church is reputed to be the smallest parish church in England and gets its name from the beams which are thought to have come from Viking ships. It is also the home of British rock-climbing.

OS reference: 188/088 on sheet 89. Also nearby: the steep passes of Hardknott and Wrynose, much-photographed Buttermere Lake and Grange Fell.

DEBORAH KING



If you're thinking really big about a London pad, Katherine Bergen has discovered the perfect answer



Vast is the only word to describe Julian Metcalfe's open-plan studio reception room and combined kitchen area measuring an overall 60ft 3in by 23ft with a high ceiling

Sandwich man's tasty filling

There is something familiar about the kitchen in Julian Metcalfe's vast south London house. Streamlined and stainless steel it looks very like the interior of one of the hugely successful Pret à Manger sandwich shops which have made him a great deal of money.

Delicacy, however, forbade me from peering in the fridge to see if it was stuffed full of chicken and avocado sandwiches on brown bread or pastrami and pickle on rye.

Whatever Mr Metcalfe chooses to eat at his dining room table, it can easily seat 12 people, perhaps up to 18 if one chooses to use less chunky chairs than the comfortable but large wicker ones presently surrounding it. Although, as this is a loft-style house, there is not exactly a dining room, more a dining space within one vast reception room.

It is more than 60ft long with very high ceilings and divided roughly into three areas, with the kitchen at one end, the dining area in the middle and the sitting area at the other end.

It is the kind of space that



Owner: Julian Metcalfe

would make the heart of even the most doughty of dailies sink. A whole team of Mrs Moppa would be needed to keep the 7,000 square feet of the property gleaming.

Mr Metcalfe has managed to avoid the almost inevitable "undecorated" look that these dimensions usually dictate. In spite of its size, this room is positively cosy. He has not resorted to gargantuan pieces of furniture or artworks. He has gone, rather, for quantity. Potentially intimidating expanses of wall have been fetchingly hung with dozens of paintings, books are heaped on coffee tables and brightly



Main bedroom with two bathrooms and dressing rooms

coloured rugs cover the wooden floor.

The master bedroom upstairs bears comparison to this room in terms of its size. It is as large as a small church. Not everyone would want to sleep in a space this big. The curtains around the large four-poster bed look as if they

might be security blankets in this cavern of a room. The only other piece of furniture is a rather strange black leather chaise longue which looks unnervingly like a psychiatrist's couch.

The colours, in contrast to the vibrant reception room, are cool with unadorned white

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

No 7 William Blake House, The Lantons, Bridge Lane, London SW11

● Price: £1,850,000, with Aylesford (0171-351 2383)

● Advantages: With a 60ft loft, lack of storage space will not be a problem.

● Disadvantages: Expensive to heat and hell to clean. Window-cleaning might be pricey.

walls and oir matting (which is not kind to bare feet). The only splash of colour is a rich claret-coloured curtain draped theatrically over the doorway. You would never fall over each other in this room. There are even his (red) and hers (turquoise) bathrooms and two dressing rooms. I can reveal that Mr Metcalfe has an exciting number of shoes.

If this is not enough bedroom, a staircase leads up to a gallery. You could do a good Romeo and Juliet balcony scene from here, or even a spot of bungee jumping. It would probably make a good study if you could resist being dis-

tracted by the view. The loft, which runs the entire length of the building, is through a trapdoor from this gallery. As the house itself is likely to absorb any amount of spare furniture thrown at it, there could be more creative uses for this space than mere storage. Think personal gym or artist's studio.

There are six other bedrooms, much more modest than this, as well as a playroom or second sitting room. One of the bedrooms has very low metal beams and might be most suitable for the smallest member of the family. In fact, you could house a large family in this section of the house and never know they were there. There is even a separate kitchen.

But it is difficult to get as excited about these rooms, robbed as they are of the breathtaking dimensions of the master bedroom and main room downstairs.

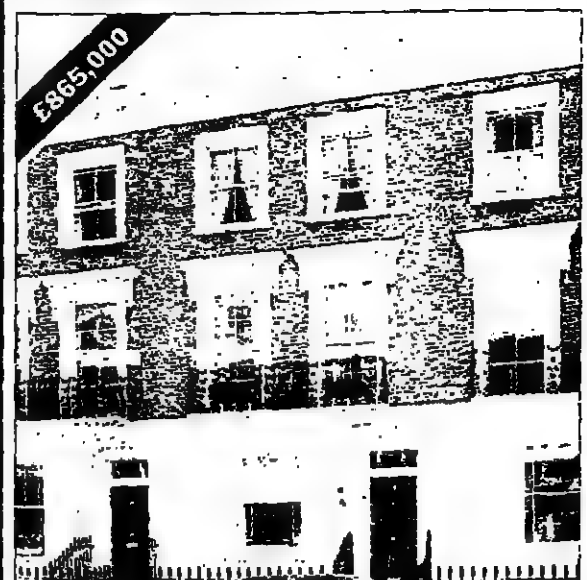
It was encouraging them, to discover that the parking arrangements for the house are not niggardly. Back on a lavish scale, there is off-street parking for seven cars.

● Agent: Aylesford, 0171-351 2383

HOME SWEET HOME

What the same money will buy around the country

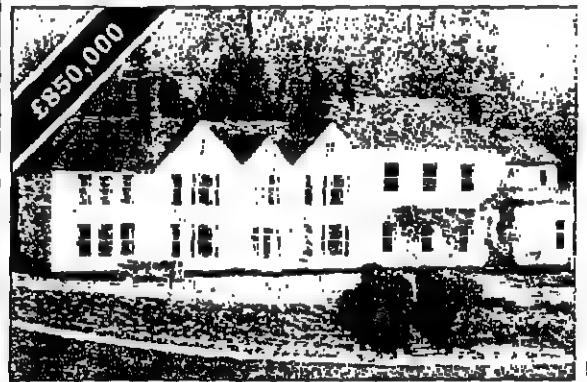
A report from the Land Registry published this Wednesday proves that the Eighties are officially back. The report shows the extent to which the property boom is spreading from London to the shires, with house prices rising in England and Wales on average by 8.9 per cent. Prices in the areas detailed below (London, East Sussex and Hertfordshire) show some of the most dramatic rises. Kensington and Chelsea is now confirmed as the most expensive borough in London with average house prices of £272,000; and East Sussex saw prices rise by 16.5 per cent over the past year. "Buyers are finding very little to buy in Hertfordshire," says Jeremy Smallman from Strutt & Parker's St Albans Office, "and are having to look in Buckinghamshire." As a result, Buckinghamshire showed the biggest increase in the country with prices for an average home rising from around £93,000 to just over £116,000. The average price for a farmhouse in the county is £700,000, and there is said to be a shortage of good property in the £400,000 to £800,000 bracket across the country due to the demand from London escapees.



For £865,000 you could buy this five-bedroom period terraced house with a small south-facing rear garden, in Lamont Road, on the sought-after Ten Acre Estate, London SW10 (Savills, 0171-730 0822).



Swap London for Hertfordshire and you could afford Daneswood, a superb six-bedroom Grade II listed Arts and Crafts house in 21 acres of landscaped gardens, paddocks and woodland at Much Hadham, near Sturton's Sturton. The price (£850,000) includes a self-contained guest annexe, a hard tennis court, swimming pool with pool house, garaging, outbuildings and stables (Savills, 0171-499 8644).



In East Sussex, the same sum (£850,000) will produce Fimwell Grange, an elegant ten-bedroom Regency country house, in 15.4 acres of wooded gardens, paddock and vineyard, set on high ground overlooking Bawl Water. It comes with a separate two-bedroom staff annexe, garaging, heated swimming pool and hard tennis court (Hampsons, 0171-493 8222).

CHERYL TAYLOR

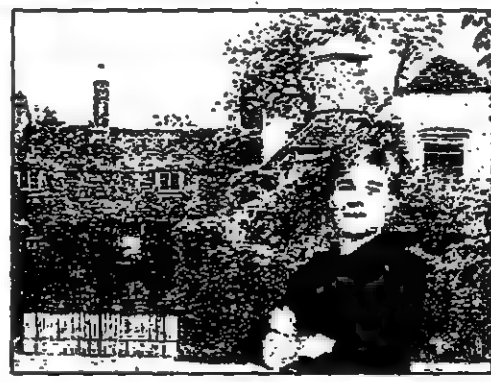
DREAM HOMES OF THE ENTREPRENEURS



ANN GLOAG, joint boss of the Perthshire-based Stagecoach, is the proud owner of Beaufort Castle, once the ancestral home of the Frasers of Lovat. It was bought for £1.3 million in 1995. Gloag divides her time between the 24-bedroom Victorian Gothic castle, in Beaulieu, Inverness-shire, and the family home — a former hotel nearby.



CHARLES DUNSTONE, founder and owner of The Carphone Warehouse, lives alone in a three-bedroom Victorian terrace. A huge aluminium spiral staircase dominates the four storeys, including the large first-floor sitting room, which opens on to a south-facing garden. Neighbouring properties fetch as much as £575,000.



JAMES DYSON, inventor of the Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner and founder of Dyson Appliances, lives in the former home of Sir David Putnam, the film director. Bought for £3 million before Christmas, the 17th-century country property stands in 40 acres on the banks of the River Avon, close to the village of Little Somerford.

PROPERTY PROFILE: SURREY

Attractions: despite its rather dour image as the Stockbroker Belt, Surrey, particularly beyond the M25, is surprisingly wooded and rural. Box Hill near Dorking, the North Downs and the many acres of National Trust common land in west Surrey make for a pleasant escape from the metropolis. Communications are also part of its appeal, with the A3 and fast rail services to Waterloo — Guildford about 32 minutes away. Haslemere 47 minutes, Gatwick and Heathrow are also within quick and easy reach.

Hotspots include Cobham, Guildford, Farnham, Haslemere and villages such as Shamley Green, Chiddingfold and Albury.

The market: Hot, despite the usual summer lull, agents say. Prime prices have risen by more than 20 per cent this year, according to Lane Fox in Haslemere. The local market almost automatically follows London trends, says Knight Frank in Guildford, which has about 1,500 buyers on its books for 30-40 properties. Savills in Guildford reckons the market is not as good as before the election, with more realistic prices, and buyers refusing to pay over the odds. Prices fell by up to 35 per cent from the 1988-89 peak, John D. Wood in Farnham says. The market began to show signs of recovery in 1994, with prices rising gradually by about 20 per cent

over the past 18 months. Knight Frank says this market is different from that of the late 1980s, with many more cash buyers on the scene.

Expect to pay: The word Plus is the great appendage when talking Surrey prices. Curdachs says: £225,000-plus for a three-bedroom, detached cottage; £650,000-plus for a farmhouse with some land; £750,000-plus for a medium-size country house. In exclusive St George's Hill and Wentworth Estate, a five-bedroom, detached house will set you back £1 million to £1.5 million.

Significant sale: Garden Cottage, a derelict property with a walled garden belonging to the Red Cross, near Wokingham, southeast of Guildford, attracted 75 viewings in the first two days. The cottage, with a guide price of £325,000, sold at about £425,000, Knight Frank says.

Outlook: Browns in Guildford expects more properties to come on to the market in the autumn and steadier price increases than earlier in the year. John D. Wood says the market will remain firm with possible increases of 10 per cent in the next 12 months. Savills expects the market to level out, with creeping interest rates having some effect on prices.

AMANDA LOOSE

● Next week: Essex

EXCLUSIVE TIMES OFFER THE TIMES

Save £125 on this 5-piece saucepan set.



Plus get a multi-steamer FREE

THE TIMES, and Viner's, offer readers the chance to buy this exclusive stainless-steel five-piece saucepan set from their Elegance range, for just £140, a saving of £125 on the m.r.p. of £265. In addition, with every set ordered you will receive a free matching multi-steamer with lid, worth £52. This stylish set comprises 14, 16, 18 and 20cm saucepans with lids, and a 24cm sauté pan. Each pan has a 6.5mm encapsulated

thermo-laminate base, which allows the heat to be absorbed quickly, hence food being cooked more efficiently. They are suitable for all types of hobs including induction. The handles and knobs are heat-resistant to 190°C with hanging loops for easy storage. The multi-steamer fits on to the 14, 16, 18 and 20cm saucepans, and completes this superb value offer. Elegance cookware is dishwasher safe and has a 25-year guarantee.

The Times Saucepan Set Offer

I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) made payable to: The Times Saucepan Set Offer F7675.

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Send coupon and remittance to THE TIMES SAUCEPAN SET OFFER F7675, PO Box 333, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7ZD.

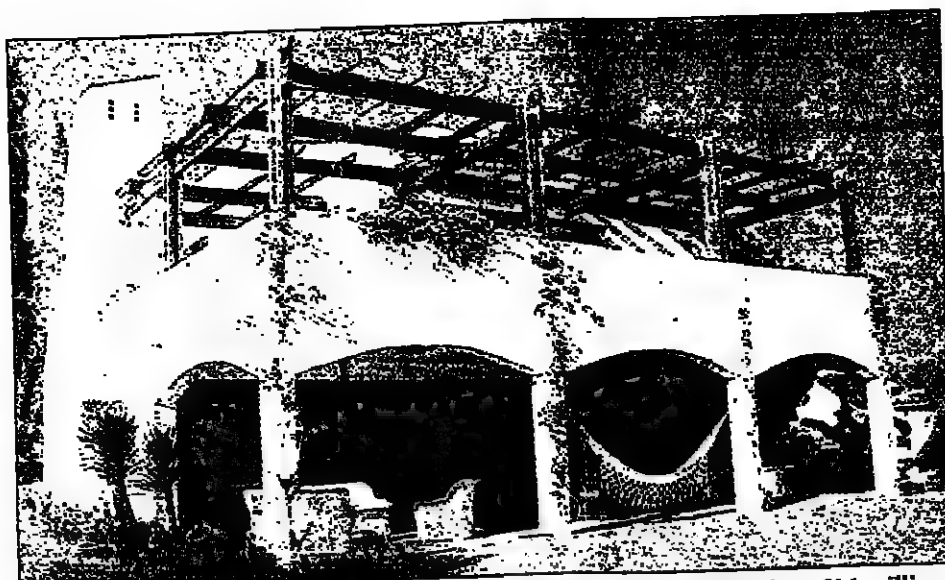
After 20 days the delivery time estimate of three other cookware sets in the Elegance range will be reduced to just £140. The Times cannot be held responsible for unavailability of goods. Offer subject to availability.

You may use our further information on offer and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

Price includes postage and packing.

24-HOUR CREDIT CARD ORDERLINE: 01525 851945

Out of the door and on to the fairway



Smart villa with staff farmhouse and guest house at Almancil, for sale at £1.1 million

Property sales along Portugal's southern coastline, the Algarve, have been brisk thanks to the strength of the pound and a growing band of well-heeled Brits looking for a second home at the edge of a championship golf course.

After six years in the doldrums, estate agents are reporting increased sales, both to foreign and domestic purchasers. British buyers remain the driving force along this 100-mile stretch with its Atlantic-swept sandy beaches and immaculate golf courses, extending from the Spanish border westwards to Cape St Vincent. In some upmarket leisure estates situated near

If your dream home is in the sun beside a golf course, try the Algarve

Faro airport, with golf courses wall-to-wall, more than half of the owners are British, paying from £100,000 to more than £1m for a place in the sun. Despite the strength of the pound, new apartments in luxury golfing developments are more expensive than many flats in London.

Michael Carpenter of Prime Property International (PPI) reports keen interest from British purchasers in the 1,700-acre Quinta do Lago estate, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Ria Formosa nature reserve, near Faro. Here you can buy a four-bedroom, four-bathroom villa, with a swimming pool and direct access to the golf course, for £550,000.

"Now that the market has picked up, there is a shortage of good quality properties over £500,000," Mr Carpenter says. "More people are keen on golf and want to live alongside the fairways, with house, pool and garden taken care of when they are not in residence. Quinta do Lago has the best golf courses, is within easy reach of shops and restaurants and next door to Faro airport."

With its 72 holes of golf, Quinta do Lago (where a round of golf costs about £54 for 18 holes) is now the largest golfing complex in Europe. Property prices start at £120,000, which buys a two-bedroom flat at Lakeside Village, one of Bovis's developments on Quinta, overlooking a freshwater lagoon.

New apartments down by the beach at São Lourenço, Bovis's second development at Quinta, overlooking one of the best golf courses in the Algarve, cost from £140,000 for two bedrooms to £185,000 for those with three bedrooms, marble floors and designer kitchens. Family membership

of the golf club costs £20,000. Although it is possible to pick up a second-hand, detached three-bedroom villa here for £300,000, the majority of homes cost a great deal more. PPI recently sold a five-bedroom house with a pool overlooking Quinta's famous greens for £1.1m.

The latest golf course development on Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos, which includes an 18-hole golf course, is attracting the most interest. The developer has sold 91 villa plots between the umbrella pines, alongside the fairways, at an average cost of £160,000 for a half-acre plot. Many of these plots have since been resold for twice their original

purchase price two years ago. The developer is now building 77 village houses and apartments in an 18th-century Portuguese classical style.

Prices range from £159,000 for a two-bedroom flat to £198,000 for a three-bedroom town house and £225,000 for a three-bedroom semi-detached house, with a pool on the terrace.

Membership of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club costs £8,700 for property owners (£30,000 to non-residents). Another 18 holes of golf are planned here, as well as a health spa and country club. Prices are lower away from the big developments, where a three-bedroom detached villa

with a pool, within walking distance of the beach, can be picked up for £135,000.

Strict planning controls limiting the spread of holiday homes on the Algarve are bolstering prices. A halt has now been called to high-rise, high-density developments.

Legislation, which effectively bans most new development along parts of the west coast for the next ten years, is expected to lead to an increase in prices as the supply of new property dries up.

The farther west one goes towards Cape St Vincent, the scenery improves and property prices become more reason-

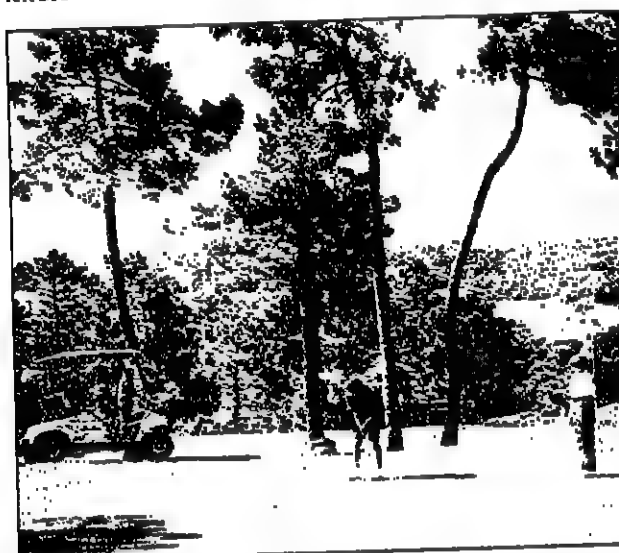
able. A resale one-bedroom balcony flat overlooking the beach at Meia Praia can be had from £37,500; from £60,000 a two-bedroom property can be bought through European Villa Sales, which has a good selection of property in the western Algarve, as well as closer to Faro.

In Lagos, an ancient harbour town with a new marina, you can buy a one-bedroom flat with sea views for £57,000; £78,000 for two bedrooms. Around Lagos, a large detached villa in a quarter-acre plot with a pool, costs from £130,000. Or buy a plot of land for £40,000 and build your own house for £60,000, plus pool and landscaping.

When buying a property in Portugal, as elsewhere, it is advisable to employ a lawyer to protect your interests. Having signed the provisional contract of sale, the buyer must pay a 10 per cent deposit, which is forfeited should he/she decide not to go ahead. If the vendor pulls out, he will be legally bound to pay the purchaser twice the deposit.

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Bovis Abroad 0181-422 3488; European Villa Sales 01223 514241; Pinheiros Altos 0171-602 9922; Prime Property International 01628 778841; Solicitor Neville de Rougemont 0171-490 4659 specialises in Portuguese law.



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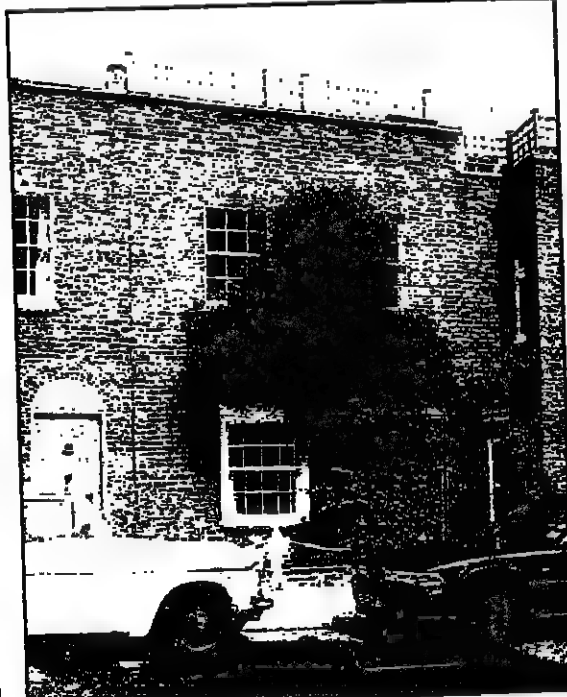
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Little pets we're itching to kill

Last year more than 11 million cats and dogs were treated for fleas — and scientists say that is only scratching the surface

Most little boys would be squealing with delight at the following pet profile. This formidable beast can jump 118 times its own height, the equivalent of a six-foot human clearing 62 storeys in one bound. It can long-jump 135 times the length of its body. It can bounce up to 10,000 times in succession. And it wreaks havoc wherever it goes.

The mystery creature is the flea, one member of the animal kingdom that has revelled in the hot and humid August weather. It is also, according to Dr John Maunday, head of the Cambridge Entomology Centre, a creature whose population has exploded in the past 50 years. The parasite has terrorised cats, dogs and even pet-owners. One anti-flea company reports treating about 11 million cats and dogs for fleas in the past year alone.

The ones that nip you on your lower leg are probably cat fleas, the commonest of the 63 species which inhabit our shores (there are 3,000 species around the world). According to Dr Maunday, who has been a devoted flea-watcher for 30 years, the critters are bolder than ever. "Cat fleas have been increasing in numbers and moving north for decades," Dr Maunday says, and adds that the cat flea is thought to have originated in the Middle East. Its migration over the past 50 years has been aided, he says, by global warming. Once here, it thrives in badly ventilated houses, helped by double glazing and central heating. Vets have also been inundated with flea-ridden animals. "I would say one in three animals that comes here has a flea problem," says Martin Fielding, from the Fielding and Cumber, practice based in Weymouth, Dorset. "This year is one of the worst I can remember."

The life cycle of a flea is a fascinating study in feasting, fornication and sudden death. A female flea will lay about 30-40 eggs. Each egg will hatch within days as a larva, a microscopic worm. Junior flea then spends the following one



Cat flea: note the long hind legs which are so good for jumping

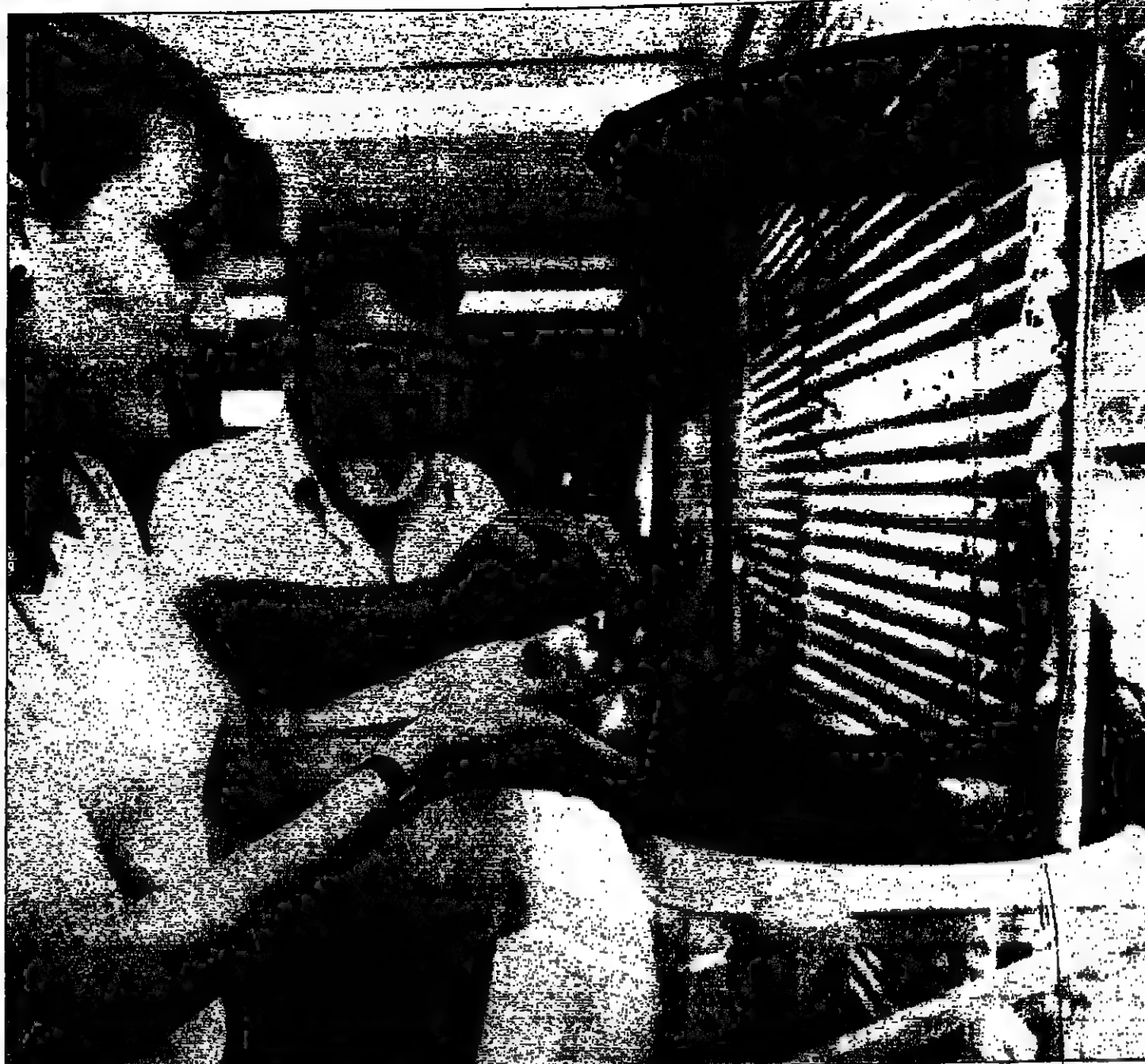
to three weeks crawling around the floor dining on a menu of food crumbs, dead human skin and flea droppings. At this stage it needs not blood but water; the recent humid conditions have been perfect. The pupal stage comes next: the worm spins a silk cocoon for itself. After a month, it emerges as a fully fledged flea. Then comes a Herculean exercise in patience. Dr Maunday says: "A flea doesn't hunt out a cat. It waits until one passes and then jumps on it." It can wait up to eight months for the perfect victim. "Occasionally it will bite a passing human but we taste awful so it jumps off again."

Once confronted with its favoured target, the flea feeds on blood and reproduces continuously over a span of about three days. "It kills itself in a frenzy of mating,

eating and egg laying," Dr Maunday says with relish.

The effects on pets can be distressing. Symptoms include excessive licking, scratching (sometimes leading to broken skin and bleeding) and hair loss. Novartis Animal Health, which makes an anti-flea treatment, says four out of five cases of skin disease in animals treated last year were due to the parasites. The main skin condition is flea allergic dermatitis. Mr Fielding says: "The flea injects its saliva into the animal to prevent the blood clotting, but the saliva contains a protein to which many animals are allergic."

Although different species target one animal — there are rabbit fleas, mouse fleas and dog fleas — cat fleas are responsible for canine misery as well. Dr Maunday says dog fleas are rare: "We invited people to send us fleas for the



Cat fleas have been increasing in number and moving north for decades, says Dr John Maunday, pictured with assistant Elizabeth Basham

awareness week, and of the thousands we received, only two were dog fleas. They both came from the West Country."

One reason why fleas often survive is that they are so small. The cat flea, for example, measures just 2.5 millimetres. It is estimated that for every flea you can spot hopping around, there are another 19 nesting out of view. The most effective treatments are those which target flea eggs, larvae and pupae. Program, manufactured by Novartis, is an example: the chemical, administered in pill form to pets, prevents the development of chitin, the main building block of the

parasite's external skeleton. As for human fleas, they have been virtually eradicated through higher standards of living.

"You are more likely to find a human flea on a pig than on a human," Dr Maunday says. "But you may get bitten by cat fleas." Apart from the embarrassment, it is not generally a problem. "If someone had 100 bites I would call that serious. They could become quite unwell. I have heard of two deaths but that is extremely rare."

ANJANA AHUJA
For free copies of The Definitive Flea Guide, call 0171-304 2481.

FLEA-FREE ZONE

Adult fleas live on cats and dogs. James Allcock writes. Flea eggs develop in the pet's beds, beneath the carpet, or any other dry, warm place where the pet sleeps. Their eggs hatch within several days into larvae and then pupae. Adult fleas can wait up to eight months for a suitable host — a cat, a dog or human. Flea control depends on attacking those on the pet with bath sprays, dusting powders or various "drop on" preparations. All dogs and cats should be treated, as should their beds and "snuggling spots". Tablets and medicines given by mouth will inhibit the development of flea eggs, and stop the second-generation fleas. These are prescription-only medicines and obtainable only from a vet.

Calorie-controlled food is helping millions of pets to shed unwanted fat. Carolyn Henderson reports

Puppy fat is not just unsightly, it can kill. And as British pets pile on the pounds, the incidence of some forms of cancer is increasing, according to Susan McKay, the head veterinary surgeon for Spillers Petfoods.

The extra weight is also putting limbs under stress. "Some surveys have found that one in three dogs is overweight," she says. "Others put it as high as one in two." If your cat or dog is pudgy, Ms McKay suggests some simple checks to see if your dog is overweight. "You should be able to feel the ribs," she advises. "If you have to dig your fingers in, the dog's overweight; if you can see the ribs clearly, he's underweight. "You should also just be able to see the spine — it shouldn't be buried under rolls of fat or stick out — and he should have a slight 'waist' between the last rib and hip."

Cats are more difficult to

Health alert for fat cats and cuddly canines

examine. "Their fat is deposited in different places. You can't give average weights for dogs because breeds vary so much, but the average cat weighs about 3.5kg. Overweight cats get fat pads on the lower abdomen, which people sometimes think are growths. If you're not sure if your pet is the right weight, ask your vet." Some dogs are more prone to weight gain than others. Older animals, labradors and golden retrievers are susceptible, as are neutered dogs — although Ms McKay stresses that worries over weight gain should not prevent owners having pets neutered. Although two dogs may be

fed the same, their weight gains may be very different. Joss, our four-year-old springer spaniel who never walks when he can run, weighs in at a perfect 17kg. Jenna, 6, our golden retriever who is laid-back to the point of being horizontal, is 32kg and should ideally be 30kg.

A balanced diet and correct exercise are the keys to getting your pet back in shape. "Aim for gradual weight loss," says Ms McKay. "A lot of people overfeed and give table scraps. If you want to give your pet a treat, give a commercially balanced one rather than a sugary one and take it into account when you work out the overall amount of food."

Some dogs like apple and carrot pieces, which are low in calories. Ordinary chocolate, as opposed to commercial "dog chocs", is poisonous, as is raw onion. And do not heed the advice that a dog needs only one meal a day. "Large breeds should have at least two meals a day or you risk gut torsion, when the gut fills with gas and twists," says Ms McKay. "Smaller breeds are also better on two meals."

The rules of human nutrition do not necessarily apply to pets. "Fat is full of calories, but dogs and cats digest it really well and have a specific requirement for it," says Ms

McKay. "And while people often say that protein is bad, they need that, too. Dogs, especially, burn it for energy."

Sometimes people say, "My dog only has the best, he has steak." But steak isn't the best because it's unbalanced. Good commercial foods are balanced and, as long as you feed the right amount, your pet shouldn't need extras."

Spillers and Pedigree Petfoods make low-calorie ranges for dogs and cats, available in pet shops and vets. Neither range is much more expensive than ordinary foods: for a dog it's about 34p a day, compared with 30p for ordinary varieties.

Pedigree Petfoods even runs a Slimmer of the Year competition. "The winner is chosen for the most successfully managed weight-loss programme, not overall weight loss," the company says.

Exercise should be tailored to a pet's age and condition. "In general, work on the basis of an hour's lead exercise a day for dogs," says Ms McKay. "Younger animals are growing and over-exercise causes bone problems. With older dogs, gentle lead exercise keeps their joints supple. If your dog is very overweight, start at 30 minutes a day and increase gradually."



Foundstretchers: ask the vet how heavy your pet should be

Cats are more difficult because if calorie intake is over-restricted, liver problems can result. It is best to ask your vet to check your cat's diet.

While few cats would appreciate being taken for a walk on a lead, you can play with them. "Exercise them with toys," says Ms McKay. "Fasten toys on sticks and get them to chase them."

The best advice is to treat a

pet in the same way as you would a human: if you keep your pet fit and feed it regularly with the right food, it will be happier and healthier.

Spillers runs a free UK phone line for pet-care advice (0800 738 2273) and offers a weighing and nutrition sessions for pets through its mobile units. For a free information sheet on overweight pets, write to Pedigree Petfoods, Walhampton, Dorset, BA3 2AT. Credit Cards and cheque payments accepted.

A VET WRITES

My West Highland white terrier, Joss, has started to visit us, even entering the house in search of his treats. He brings his two offspring with him — and passes some of the food on to them. His heads are fully feathered. What caused his baldness?

Striking a match (a red-headed one is best) will clear the polluted atmosphere and make life tolerable. Intestinal fermentation might be reduced by giving him three or four little meals each day, so food is dealt with by the digestive juices rather than the yeasts and bacteria that produce gas. A sprinkling of bran on his food might help. You don't say what he drinks. Clean water is best. Milk could exacerbate the odour problem.

My neighbour's cat is a fearsome slaughterer of birds — and songbirds are at a premium in London. I bought a cat collar with a bell, but the bell tinkles much too faintly. Do you know where I can buy a bell with a clarion ring?

I'm afraid I don't, and in any case tinkles — whatever the decibel rating — are not effective avian alarm signals. Songbirds rely on sight rather than sound to detect danger. That's why their heads are constantly rotating and their eyes are placed on the side of the head to give wide-angle vision. If you could find a "jewelled" collar with a shiny bell, the resultant warning flashes of light might help to reduce the songbird carnage.

A friendly but black-headed bird has started to visit us, even entering the house in search of his treats. He brings his two offspring with him — and passes some of the food on to them. His heads are fully feathered. What caused his baldness?

The photographs you have sent show his got a smooth head without any broken or deformed feathers. That seems to exclude attack by other birds or self-inflicted injury because of some sort of feather disease. I think it is either a genetic abnormality — in spite of his offspring being fully feathered. White-headed birds turn up occasionally. Alternatively, the feather follicles on his head could have been destroyed by something



Bald: a visiting blackbird that happened when he was very young. His re-feathering chances are poor. I think he is destined to be a Kojak, or William Hague, blackbird or the rest of his life.

JAMES ALLCOCK



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'Part of me still thinks gardening is what women of a certain age turn to when their children have gone away to university'

Fading flower or femme fatale?

At the parish church of St Damian and St Cosmas, one of three religious establishments regularly patronised by my parents, who are v. keen (unnecessarily keen, my sister and I used to feel when we were little) on religion, the big event of the Bank Holiday was the flower festival.

My mother's contribution to this year's theme of Women of the Bible was a handsome still life, straight from the pages of Constance Spry, representing Claudia, wife of Pontius Pilate, by means of a small oil lamp, a substantial terracotta urn and a generous plateful of Safeway's exotic fruit.

Elsewhere in the church, still more exuberant feats of imagination had taken place. Possibly the most striking of all was Lot's wife being turned into salt — a pillar in the nave, modestly draped in white butter muslin and crowned with a wreath of marguerites — a construction which, from a distance, succeeded in conveying a fine air of monumental resignation and a certain stolid outrage.

But there was stiff competition from a wistful Jezebel (gladioli, scarlet geraniums, handfuls of paste jewels and a large model Dalmatian). Momentarily

distracted from contemplation of I Kings 20, I found myself thinking that Jezebel is rather a pretty name and I wonder if I might give it to my daughter, when I get around to having one.

Filled with flowers and people, the church exhaled a faint melancholy. By the altar stands the roll of those killed in the Great War — a long list of solid Kentish names: like Vanu, Vidion, Guv, Epps, even an (unrelated) Shilling. And above my mother's neat heap of passion-fruit and mangoes, a marble slab let into the wall commemorates Harry Lyall, who lived in Albany, owned land in Berwick, and now lies in this churchyard, where from boyhood he desired to be buried — a bit of forward planning as touching as it is eccentric.

Alexander started reading this, but I moved him along sharply, in case it gave him ideas. A child of reflective disposition, he is already subject to periodic fits of timor mortis, and I really don't think I can bear to spend the next decade or so

discussing where he might like his last resting place to be.

Outside, at the flower stall, I fell into a long and inspiring discussion about Afghan sage, and left with a splendid example in a pot. I wondered, on the way back to London, why I am still so furtive about admitting my enthusiasm for gardening. I have read plenty of articles about what a fashionable pursuit it has become, but there is a part of me that still thinks it is what women of a certain age turn to when their children have gone away to school or university and their looks have started to fade.

When I find myself reading *The Garden* before the new *Vogue*, a nagging

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

and my friend Charles. Settling himself comfortably all over my sofa, he sinks at a gulp the half-bottle of left-over chablis that I was vaguely saving to drink in front of *The Jewel in the Crown*, and looks round expectantly for something else to consume. "Stay and have something to eat," I say, putting a saucepan of

voice in my head tells me that this is the first sign of letting myself go, and that if I persist, before long I shall become completely herbaceous — and then it will be goodbye for ever eye-liner and red patent Azagury kitten heels: hallo scrubbed face and land-girl breeches held up with bits of binder twine...

On the doorstep, when I get back, I find my friend Charles. Settling himself comfortably all over my sofa, he sinks at a gulp the half-bottle of left-over chablis that I was vaguely saving to drink in front of *The Jewel in the Crown*, and looks round expectantly for something else to consume. "Stay and have something to eat," I say, putting a saucepan of

water on to boil. "I'll just pop to the office for some more wine." I am halfway back home with another bottle of chablis when out of a shadowy doorway there looms a large young man with sad, dark eyes and huge muscles bursting out of a weightlifter's singlet. Mindful of Inspector Knacker's recent advice to Londoners to be very rude when accosted by strangers, I fix him with the Medusa glare I use for people who knock at the front door when I am dusting on a Sunday morning and ask if I am saved.

Excuse him, he says, his name is Achilles, and he is sorry, but his English is very bad... Never mind, I say, in my schoolgirl French, feeling rather guilty and adjusting my expression to something a bit more welcoming — probably he is only after directions to the pub.

He has noticed me before, he says, and he would like to tell me that I please him

very much. I wonder whether to hit him with the chablis, decide that this might be premature, and say instead how nice of him to think this, and now I must hurry home to my children and my husband who is, *malheureusement*, a violent and jealous psychopath.

"Regards," says Achilles, sketching in the air with his hand a shape like that of Jessica Rabbit, with whom I have not previously been compared. "*Comme tu es belle comme femme*." Well, that is as may be, I say. But I am also *une femme sérieuse*, and old enough, furthermore, to be your... elder sister. Adieu, Achilles.

"I say what is in my heart," calls Achilles reproachfully, as I lag for home. All I can think is that, whatever the subtlety of this extraordinary conversation, it is certainly not one you would ever have with an Englishman.

Indoors, the pan of water has boiled dry and Charles's gaze is fixed on the television. I decide to try a little experiment. "Charles," I say. "Tell me, would you say I was beautiful, as a woman?" "Eh?" says Charles, who farms. "What? Hang on a minute, can you? Only the weather forecast is just coming up and I really must watch it..."

Harsh lessons of home life

Marriages often fall apart when wives return to study, says Diana Appleyard

I have been labelled the *Educating Rita* syndrome. More and more women are returning to education after bringing up a family. For most of them, it heralds a huge change in their life and, if their partner isn't prepared to change and adapt too, it can lead to the break-up of their marriage.

In the film, Rita (Julie Walters) walks out of her dull hairdressing job to take a university course. She begins an affair with her tutor (Michael Caine). Her husband, left behind at home, cannot understand the new "educated" Rita and is bitterly frustrated.

Professor Christine King is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Staffordshire, where a large number of mature students are women returners. "Women often decide to return to study because they are facing a crossroads in their life," she says. "Often the children have grown up and they feel redundant in the home. People do change when they begin to explore their potential, and many husbands feel threatened or insecure about these changes in the woman they thought they knew so well."

Anneke Rice, the television presenter, returned to college when her marriage to impresario Nick Allott was going through a sticky patch. She has enjoyed her university art course, which has given her a sense of freedom from work schedules. But the marriage has not survived and she is expecting a baby with television producer Tom Gutteridge.

For Heather Pollitt of Manchester, the return to higher education almost exactly mirrored the film *Educating Rita*. "I worked as a hairdresser," she says. "I'd left school after O levels because my family wanted me to work in the family business. I married young; my husband was a successful businessman. We had a daughter, but I never felt I belonged."

"I never felt right working as a hairdresser, and what my husband wanted was a wife willing to take second position to him, to cook lovely dinners and be a social hostess on demand. When my daughter was 12, I decided I wanted to go back to university."

But she met with immediate opposition. "My husband didn't want me to go. He thought of university as a licentious place which would pull us apart. But I was determined and, first, took my A levels at a local college." She

passed with A grades and then read English language and literature at Manchester University. "As soon as I was there, I felt like I belonged — as if this was what I should always have done."

"My husband did support me, in that he paid the college fees — I had only a small grant — but he deeply resented the changes in me and how much time the course took. I tried to involve him in the course and get him to meet my new friends, but he drew the line at that in a way that frustrated me," she says.

Professor King says: "Sadly, this does happen. Sometimes the marriage is already breaking up, although each partner may not yet acknowledge the fact. Husbands don't find it easy when their wives begin to change. What I see in mature students is that their confidence grows and they begin to see themselves in a different light. It disturbs the balance of the relationship, and for a marriage to survive the other partner has to be prepared to change the focus of their relationship and allow their partner more independence."

When Jenny Elsey from the Midlands decided to go back to studying after bringing up five children, she says, her marriage went through a very wobbly patch. It survived, however, and has emerged stronger than before. She says: "I stayed at home until the eldest child was about 15. I had been working as a chef but was made redundant, and this gave me a chance to sit back

and reflect. I thought, 'I don't want to do this any more'. At school I'd never thought of myself as bright, because I'd failed the 11-plus. Higher education wasn't for the likes of me."

But then she went, on a whim, to a women's action day at a local college. That sparked off the thought that perhaps she could try for a degree. She applied for a business enterprise course at the University of Stafford and was accepted. "I was on a rollercoaster," she says. "I was 40 at the time and I couldn't believe how much my life was changing. I don't think I noticed I was changing too, but I was becoming much more confident and willing to express my views."

For the family, it was a seismic leap. "Very often I'd have to work all through the night. I'm very much a perfectionist. Looking back, I put myself through a great deal of mental anguish because I was so determined to prove that I could do it. At times I think it was very difficult for my family to understand why I had to work such long hours, and there were times when I knew that my husband Howard felt a bit neglected."

"Doing my degree did make me a very difficult and, at times, emotional person to live with, and that does put pressure on a marriage." Their marriage has survived, she says, because her husband was willing to accept a more independent, confident wife.

After her degree, Heather Pollitt went on to take an MA, then a PGCE (post-graduate certificate of education) teaching course. Three years after her degree, her marriage broke up. "At the time I didn't see a direct correlation between my going back to study and the breakdown of our relationship," she says. "But now it's clear that this was a factor, in that I changed. I felt I had the paper to prove that I was someone and it changed my outlook on life."

Ms Pollitt later became head of an English language department at a sixth-form college in Manchester. Like Rita, she also met her new partner at university.

"We're working together, writing a guide for English language teaching. Our relationship couldn't be more different — we're very much equals — yet we are both friendly with my ex-husband and his new wife. I can see now that we weren't suited, and my going back to university brought our different aims and values to a head."

For Mrs Elsey and her husband, there was a long period of readjusting to their new roles. Her perfectionism paid off with a first-class degree and she is now working as a PA to a head of department at a high-street bank. "Now I don't ask, 'Can I go out?' I just go," she says. "Our marriage has moved into a different phase."

Mrs Elsey says that the changes university have made to her mean that while they both lead more independent lives, they enjoy their time together more. "Now our marriage runs on independent, but parallel, lines."

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Uplifting story of divine restoration

Ruth Gledhill discovers an inspiring yet earthly form of paradise regained in Hereford



THE beautiful, listed, medieval All Saints church in Hereford, complete with Lady Chapel, James I pulpit and Queen Anne reredos, positively hums with life. In the raised west end, is a cafe with tables and chairs overflowing into the gallery, which serves delicious almond cake and hot chocolate. The night before, the church had played host to a production of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, but the remnants of Satan and all his works were now being removed from the church as normal service resumed. The organ was being played joyfully by a member of the congregation as we prepared for midday communion in the Lady Chapel. In the background, cups and saucers clattered and waitresses, chatted to customers. In the foreground, all was peace and quiet and the Rev Andrew Mottram emerged in chasuble and stole to lead us through the familiar liturgy of the 1980 Alternative Service Book.



The Rev Andrew Mottram

Paradise Lost, part of this year's Three Choirs Festival, is witness to the maxim that the Devil has all the best times, but the story of All Saints is closer to paradise regained. When Father Mottram was interviewed for the job, he was so distressed by the state the church was in that he ended up shouting at the panel. Astonished

then to be offered the job — in a personal phone call from the bishop — he decided this was a sign from God, and began recreating this church. It took six years. "I was appalled that an Anglican church could have got into such a parlous state of disrepair," he said over coffee after the service. He described the

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★
VICAR: The Rev Andrew Mottram
ARCHITECTURE: The 13th to 16th-century structure has been enhanced by more modern additions.
Fascinating. ★★★★★
MUSIC and LITURGY: Organ played in background. ★★★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Inspiring and wise. ★★★★★

water pouring through the 15th-century roof and down the walls, inside and out, decrepit guttering, decaying plasterboard partitions and serious financial difficulties.

Salvation arrived in the form of grants from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as covenants, donations, trusts and fundraising events. The church has now been restored and was reopened for worship a few weeks ago, closer in spirit to a medieval church than possibly any other in England.

"Churches were then a meeting place, a market hall, the equivalent of the pub and the town hall as well as a centre of worship," said Father Mottram. "The divide between the sacred and the secular began at the Reformation, relatively recently in the history of Christianity. At All Saints I want to bring the holy back into the ordinary and the ordinary back into the holy. It makes theological and financial sense."

All Saints church, High Street, Hereford (01432 370414)



Garden games to get lost in
Mazes · 18

THE TIMES

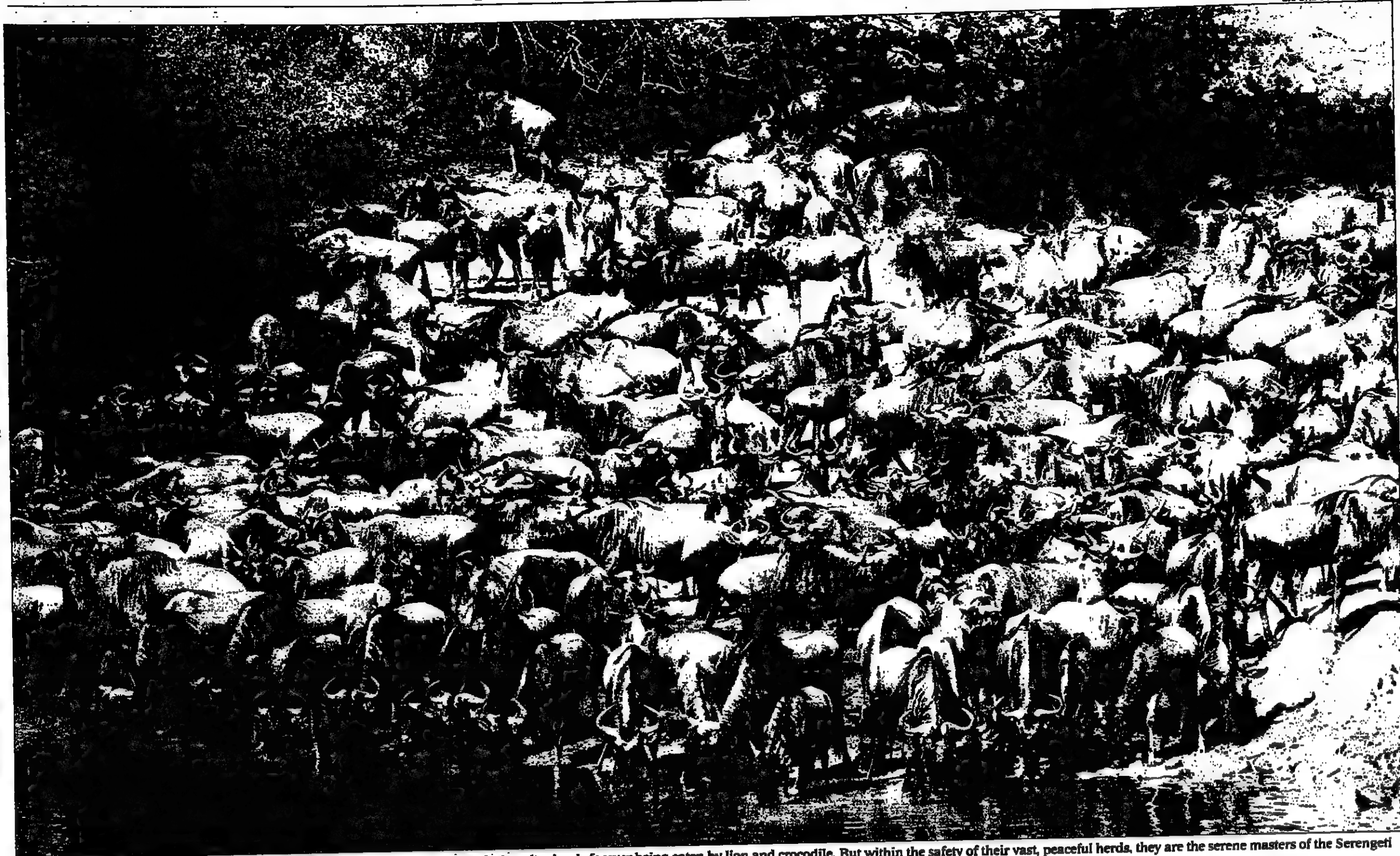
travel

Search for an ancient world

Easter Isle · 20



Simon Barnes celebrates the Serengeti migration, a vision of a past in which vast herds roamed the Earth



In a thousand wildlife documentaries, we see wildebeest as comical, poorly designed animals forever being eaten by lion and crocodile. But within the safety of their vast, peaceful herds, they are the serene masters of the Serengeti

Majestic comedy of millions on the move

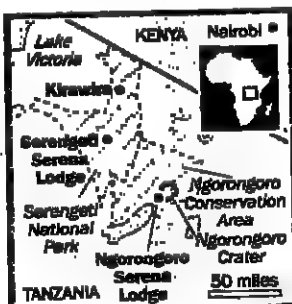
It is one of the great wonders of the world, perhaps the greatest of them all. On the savannah plains of the Serengeti National Park, in Tanzania, the biggest megafauna migration on the planet takes place. "Megafauna" is a proper zoological term meaning big animals. Vast numbers of big four-footed mammals once roamed all over the Earth. Now the largest herds are found in the Serengeti, an army on the move, dust hanging in the air at its passage — but an army of pacifists, seeking only the youngest, freshest and greenest of grass.

The herds of wildebeest and zebra follow the rains, not the calendar. June, when I visited, normally finds the heart of the migration at the heart of the park, around Seronera. By the end of August, they have moved into the park's Western Corridor, and can be seen from the bush camp at Kirawira. For the next few weeks they usually continue to move northwest until they cross into the Masai Mara in Kenya, before heading back, southeast, when the rainy season begins in November.

The numbers baffle the mind. On and on we drove: horizon-to-horizon wildebeest. We would breathe a slight rise to see a new horizon, a new city of wildebeest. There are two million wildebeest in the Serengeti, and 2,000 lion — who follow the migrating wildebeest. Which species is master? The environment of the Serengeti is created by the cycle of the rains and the great looping migration of the wildebeest. The lion are the big players: the unwieldy wildebeest are at the heart of the matter.

During a short balloon trip, a side-trip from the main safari, a glorious dawn sweeps across the heart of the Serengeti. An American, chance-met fellow traveller, one of the two dozen or so in the basket, his voice husky in unaccustomed reverence, says: "This was the Midwest, once."

I have been to Africa many



times, and, though no one in the world could be blasé in such a place, I fell easily into an accustomed routine of wonder. But the sight of these impossible numbers reduced me to the same ridiculous state of gasping awe that I found on my first trip. We stepped, as the man in the balloon said, into the planer's past.

For much of the safari, I spied on the wildebeests' manoeuvres from a four-wheel drive. My guide and driver, Eliakim Jeremtah, knowledgeable about the beasts and their places of resort, took me deep into the bush, where we would also see non-migratory animals, including leopard, cheetah, and elephant. He understood the needs of an insatiable, bush-struck traveller: indeed, he is one himself, unsated after 20 years work among the beasts of Tanzania.

To be with a vast group of herbivores is to witness — if you like, to share — a vast content. Large numbers reduce anxiety. So sit among them and savour the idle business, the air filled with their idiosyncratic croaking moo — gnu, another name for wildebeest, is onomatopoeic — until the herd sounds like an enormous pond of bullfrogs.

In a thousand wildlife documentaries we see wildebeest as comical, tormented souls: poorly designed beasts forever being eaten by lion and crocodile, whose pathetic, staggering, minutes-old infants exist only to feed hyenas. The Serengeti is seen as the ultimate theatre of cruelty, the wildebeest the pathetic victims, the butt of one of nature's nastiest jokes. And they are odd-looking beasts, made, it seems, of left-over odds and ends of other animals: back end of antelope, forequarters of horse, upper part of the head from a cow, lower part from a goat, beard and all.

And every gait is funny, from the stiff, chilblained walk to the daft twisting and bucking galumph they use in moments of excitement. A herd of wildebeest is a perambulating bird table for carnivores and an unending photo opportunity for those who

wish to take a snap of death. Yet are they so unwieldy? A wildebeest must live within commuting distance of water. The daily graze and the procession to the chosen waterhole spell out the rhythms of the day. It is this brief drinking session that gives the long, peaceful day the Tabasco of danger.

So park in the shade and watch the commuters filing into the water, and filling away with dripping beards. The escalators at Oxford Circus, perhaps, and the air filled with the latest gnus. And then panic, as a lioness arrives.

As I watched the panic, I could see that every technique of evasion was a ploy also used in rugby. The little jinking side-step is the sport's classic method of shaking off pursuit. Wildebeest never run a straight line, always a curve — and so do rugby players in a close chase.

Wildebeest buck comically and kick out their hind legs. This combines the flashiness of the "goose-step", a change of rhythm that throws off the tackler's timing, and the brutality of the "hand-off", a legitimate smack in the pursuer's face.

Finally, wildebeest constantly run across each other's paths. This is called "crossing" or "blocking" and it is illegal in both codes of rugby, though not in American football. And there was the lioness a few yards away from me, surrounded by dust and the sounds of escape. So many meals, and she not able to lay a paw on a single one.

The wildebeest continue their eternal circular journey, and spend almost all of it in peaceful movement and stationary rumination. Barring the occasional accident, they are the serene masters of the Serengeti.

Megafauna such as this now survive only in isolated pockets. But the Serengeti is, as pockets go, huge and, for the time being, secure. And it is, even for the most satiated, the experience of a lifetime.

TANZANIA FACT FILE

- Simon Barnes travelled with Kenya Airways (0171-409 0277) and Serengeti Hotels (00 255 57 8175/6304). Fares with Kenya Airways from Heathrow start at £908 return, including taxes.
- Flights can also be booked through travel agents including Allison Brothers (0171-491 1866). Fares start at £441, including taxes, in low season (September 11-November 30).
- The author stayed at Ngorongoro Serena Lodge, Serengeti National Park, and at the bush camp, Kirawira.
- His week-long, tailor-made itinerary cost £2,590 (bookable through Serengeti), excluding international flights but including accommodation, all ground arrangements, transfers, charter flights, park fees, meals and, at Kirawira, the balloon flight. The balloon trip can be booked separately with Serengeti Balloon Safaris at Serengeti Serena Lodge, £200.
- Tour operators featuring Serengeti Hotels: Somak (0181-423 3000), Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600), Hayes and Jarvis (0181-748 5050) and British Airways Holidays (01293 723180).
- Reading: *The Serengeti Lion*, by George B. Schaller (University of Chicago Press, £21.95); *East Africa Handbook*, by Michael Hodd (Footprint, £14.99); *Rogue Lion Safari*, by Simon Barnes (HarperCollins, £11.99).



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Visitors are warmly welcomed again in Lebanon, but there are still some no-go areas, says Michael Church

Tread with care among the ruins



Majestic: the Temple of Jupiter at Baalbek, still in astonishingly good condition

In the vestibule of the Casino du Liban, the first thing that confronts you is an airport-style metal detector, through which you are politely directed to walk. "We were determined this should be neutral territory," says Nicholas Crabtree, the casino's British gaming manager. "Every other citizen in Beirut has a gun, and we didn't want our customers to feel they had to spend the evening looking over their shoulders. It's been gratifying to see how seldom the gun alarm goes off."

Once inside these marble halls, however, you could be anywhere in the world: the decor is swish international, the gaming tables hum with the usual suppressed excitement, the dark-suited croupiers exude quiet efficiency.

But you are actually in a place of huge historical importance. This was the focal point for Beirut's prewar jet set, and it has mythical importance for all Lebanese. Ten years ago, Jounieh, the bay it overlooks, was the artillery-raked departure point for boatloads of Christians bound for Cyprus.

Just months into its new life, the casino is a potent symbol of returning normality.

A drive through present-day Beirut simply takes the breath away. President Assad of neighbouring Syria beams down from every wall, accompanied by a dead son whose picture is bordered with black. Syrian soldiers man checkpoints where you stop and explain your business ("tourism"). This is an occupying army in all but name, as much in control in the north as Israel is in the south. There are wayside shrines in the Christian areas through which you pass, but the checkpoints are decked out like shrines as well. Every so often you come upon tanks hidden up alleyways, towards which you are advised not to point your camera. Well, the same rule applies in Belfast.

This, as the brochures gamely put it, is The City That Would Not Die, which is exactly the feeling one gets as one cruises along Sniper Alley — which runs along the former green line that divided east and west — and on through what used to be the

city centre. Now there is no centre at all: the streets on which the heaviest fighting raged have been bulldozed flat, ready for the new centre to rise from the ashes.

"This is good for two reasons," says my driver. "It creates jobs, and it prevents people from feeling sick whenever they pass the place where their brother or mother was killed. Bad memories are being rubbed out."

Well, some are: there are still plenty of buildings that look like gruyère cheese. And they are often fully inhabited, with living rooms exposed to the elements and cheerful washing lines strung across wrecked balconies. A vast Roman site has been uncovered next to one of the big Maronite churches; developers and archaeologists are at loggerheads over dozens of newly discovered sites.

The Hezbollah area, in West Beirut, exudes grim severity, with the local equivalent of Downing Street cordoned off by metal gates like those in Westminster. In the Falangist districts to the east, the atmosphere proves similarly intense. The Syrian tanks seem oddly reassuring — a sentiment my driver echoes. "We don't like Assad, but if he wasn't here, somebody else would move in. He's a guarantee the war is over."

Another guarantee is the number of grand hotels that have reopened, including the Marriott, the Phoenicia International, Le Vendôme International and that traditional haunt of journalists, the Commodore. I stayed at the Al Bustan, in the hills ten miles east of the city centre, partly because I love its aerial view of the city and partly to attend its annual music festival.

Across the road from the American University — now functioning without American students — I visited Anne Malama-Thomson, the forthright Scot who runs the British Council offices in Beirut. Two years ago she was sent here to do a feasibility study on whether the office should be reopened after a nine-year closure. Her answer to her bosses' key question — is it safe? — had been a resounding yes and a second office has now been opened. "I feel safer here than I do in London," she says. "Look at the pot plants that have been sitting for months on my doorstep. In

London they would have been vandalised overnight."

My own nightlife in this trilingual city — where you are as likely to hear French and English as Arabic — began with a visit to the Caracalla Dance Theatre, which was presenting a gloriously kitsch musical drama on the story of Dido and Aeneas. The house was packed and the audience members I talked to in the interval explained why. Alone of all Lebanese companies, this one performed right through the war: they are real folk heroes and the tale they were dramatising was itself a piece of Lebanese folk history. Afterwards, I repaired to the Mhanna restaurant in the city centre for an epic meal. The savoury courses came thick and fast, with lashings of herbs and salads, and a bubble-bubble offered as part of

the menu. For dessert we moved to a separate table piled high with fruit of every kind.

The Corniche, running along the coast to the north, was a forest of neon purveying messages of hope. We passed under a bridge proclaiming "A Cleaner World" and were repeatedly informed that "100% of People Ask for a Kleenex". In the Muslim town of Tripoli, on the coast north of Beirut, the Crusader castle is so well preserved and has so few visitors that it felt as though the builders had just left and the first tenants had yet to move in. South of Beirut, at the palace of Beit ed Dine, the story was the same: no Westerners. Kamal Jabbour, who runs the nearby Mir Amin Palace hotel, sadly confirmed the fact: all it takes is one story on CNN to frighten off visitors for months. When



some Japanese terrorists were improbably rounded up in Lebanon this year, prospective guests from Tokyo cancelled en masse. Like everyone else in Lebanon's hotel trade, he was praying for the American embargo to be lifted: only then will business take off.

The scattering of tourists we found at the Phoenician town of Byblos, on the coast be-

tween Beirut and Tripoli, was no surprise. It is an exquisite little harbour, backed by some solid ruins where medieval walls stand alongside Roman walls, with a Bronze Age settlement below. It was intensely photogenic for there was a storm at sea, beyond which the sun was setting.

And what of Baalbek, once home to the greatest opera festival in the world, more recently home to Hezbollah's hostages? Our route there from Beirut wound up through the hills, past freshly ruined villas and Druze villages whose houses stare at you with blackened eye-sockets. Descending into the Bekaa Valley was like entering another world: sheep and goats, Bedouin encampments and snow-clad peaks in the blue distance.

Baalbek was superb: the Roman temples to Bacchus and Jupiter are in astonishingly good condition, with the stone roof-slabs carved as though from the most delicate wood. The walls of one chapel carry "I love you" graffiti from 100 years ago, when Greeks, Jews and Arabs scratched their names in apparent anarchy. But there was nobody staying at the Palmyra Hotel by the temples' entrance, as the manager showed us round the elegant, wood-paneled rooms, he recalled the dancers and divas who regularly slept

here. This, too, was like a

nauseous dream. To reach Baalbek, we had to pass a series of roadblocks — some manned by the Syrian army, some by the Lebanese and one by well-armed, tough-looking "civilians" in expensive leather jackets. On our way out of Baalbek, this latter group motioned us to the side of the road and questioned our driver. The conversation went on for some time, with our driver looking increasingly nervous. Finally he showed his trump card — a police reserve ID — and the interrogator backed off. What was it all about? "They wanted money." How much? "Oh, \$20, \$100." He shrugged in embarrassment. And if we had not been able to oblige? "Problems." The leader of the group, he added, was a Syrian.

This incident proved there are places in Lebanon where foreigners can feel at ease and others where it is unwise to go: you cannot just pile into a hired car and head for the hills — you need a local guide. When I reached the immigration barrier at the airport, I found a conundrum. Four channels, for Diplomats, Foreigners, Lebanese and Arabs. The first two desks were unmanned and the third had a long queue, I went up to the fourth desk and was politely waved through as an Arab. Well, that was fine by me, because I was beginning to feel at home.

GETTING THERE

■ The author travelled with British Mediterranean Airways and stayed at the Al Bustan Hotel. Flights with British Mediterranean (0345 222111) from Heathrow to Beirut start at £346 return in September, including taxes.

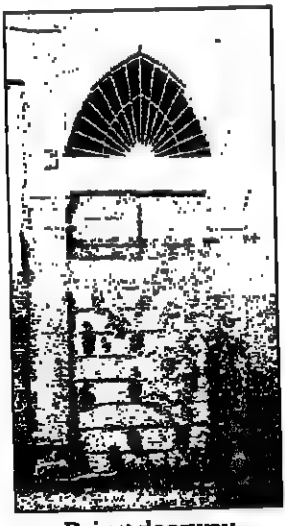
■ Rooms at the Al Bustan Hotel (bookable through Utell: 0990 300300) start at \$180 (£120). A new wing has been added with 20 rooms from \$145 (£90) per night.

■ Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) has a five-night tour of Lebanon, staying in Beirut and Byblos. The price in September is £764 per person, including flights, B&B, guide, taxes and transfers, based on two sharing a room. Tours include Tyre, Sidon, Baalbek, Byblos and Tripoli. Three-night breaks in Beirut are from £536.

■ The best times to go are April-May and September-October. Winter snowfalls in the mountains preclude travel: locals head for the mountains in summer to escape the humidity in Beirut.

■ Most visitors are part of an organised tour, with ground agents in constant touch with the authorities. The Foreign Office said on August 5 that travel is inadvisable south of Tyre. It added: "Visitors wishing to go to the Baalbek region and to the north of the Bekaa Valley should use organised tour groups."

■ Reading: *Guide to Lebanon*, by Lynda Keen (Bradt, £10.95); *Pity the Nation*, by Robert Fisk (OUP, £8.99); *The Traveller's Survival Kit Lebanon*, by Carole Cadwalladr and Anna Sutton (Vacation Work Publications, £9.99).



Beirut doorway

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

SINGERIE

A piece of porcelain or a painting in which monkeys are represented in anthropomorphic (often quasi-Chinese) attitudes. Work done in this style, especially popular in the 18th century.

PLACITUM

(c) The decree of a judge, the decision or determination of a public assembly, a court of justice or the like. Hence, the public assemblies of all degrees of men, where the king presided. Bryce, 1869: "The placita at which the laws were framed or published would not have been crowded as of yore by armed freemen."

PLATYTERA

(a) A type of icon of the incarnation, also known as the icon of the sign, depicting the mother of God, orant, and in front. Burlington Magazine 1944: "The form is derived from the Platytera showing the child as an abstract symbol affixed to, but not inside the body of the mother."

HEMIPTERA

(a) One of the Hemiptera, a large order of insects comprising a wide variety of different kinds, characterised by a sucking mouth, and in the largest group, Heteroptera, by wings coriaceous at the base and membranous at the top. Also called Rhynchota. Well-known examples are bugs, lice and plant-lice.

WORLD COVER

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Camping in France: In the Jura Peter Brown has an unexpected close shave, and narrowly avoids a mud bath

Hiding out in a real Jurassic park

Paying £10 to get covered in mud and then hosed down is not my idea of fun, unless I am watching, but my wife had wanted to do it for years, she said, and wasn't that what holidays were for? So she shooed the children and me off to the park and strolled mysteriously into the imposing thermal hall of Lons-le-Saunier to be properly muddled.

We were in the Jura, that chunk of eastern France famous for being Jurassic. It has cold limestone, folding hills, strange walled-off valleys, lakes, caves, forests and sleepy spa towns such as Lons.

So there I sat, on a bench in a real Jurassic park, munching mirabelle plums, rubbing my stubble and thinking how similar small English children were to French ones. Clearly, too much relaxation had jellied the mind, as my wife pointed out when she emerged, every pore rejoicing. It had been a good holiday, made memorable by one great triumph and one extremely bad decision.

In two weeks spent exploring the foothills of the Alps, we had clocked a lot of scenery and four genuinely foreign sights: a red squirrel crossing the road; a robot with a red flag and a painted motorway traffic; a girl whizzing around a hypermarket on inline skates saving time at the checkout by finding the prices of goods without bar codes; and a counter assistant who knew 100 cheeses (beat that, Mr Sainsbury).

We had eaten well. Nothing expensive, but at the stately resort of Annecy, where the beauty of the lake defies all adjectives, there had been *tariflette* — potato slices in a sauce made from reblochon, the hard white mountain cheese. In Chambéry, capital of the Savoy region, the tastes were fromage blanc and vermouth. In the Jura, the tastes were smoked ham, blueberry tart, and, at a farmhouse restaurant, succulent rabbit served by a shy grandchild.

The secret to enjoying French provincial cooking, particularly when staying at campsites with children, is to leave the youngsters behind in the evenings. Tooty, Toby, the Matheus, 12, and Imogen, 8, through years of exposure, have developed a taste for campsite chips and pizza.

We had done a lot of walking and admiring. In the kitchen gardens, brilliant orange pumpkins glistened among the artichokes, leeks and beans. On one stall in the market place at Clairvaux-les-Bains, I inspected a house when it is raining — or so the advice to housebuyers goes. On the same principle, a week of rain and wind should be a good test of campers, especially for people like us who pondered long and hard before setting out for a late summer week at two sites in Brittany.

Were my wife Gillian and I, in our early fifties, too old for such a holiday? Was it the kind of trip that we could tolerate, let alone one we could enjoy? Would there be any other fifty-somethings there, or would it all be families with young children?

True, it was very much middle-aged, middle-class camping. The tents were already erected and equipped with everything from a refrigerator to gas rings, cutlery to barbecue. Everything, in short, had been laid on by Carvas Holidays with little for us to do for ourselves. Except survive seven wet days in early September.

We stayed at two sites. The first, Port l'Épine in northern Brittany, near Perros-Guirec, was a pretty site on the coast, overlooking a rocky bay sheltering a few tiny yachts. The tent was almost blown away by the strong winds of our two nights there, but we were neither cold nor uncomfortable in our canvas home.



FACT FILE

■ Peter Brown travelled with Sunsites (01545 625533). In 1998 prices are from £266-£240 for 12 nights in a tent at Lac de Chalain, for two adults and up to four children, including ferry. Mobile homes £42-£125. A two-night campsite stay at Disneyland Paris adds from £202 to the price — entry tickets extra.

■ Derek Mercer travelled with Carvas Holidays (01932 553533). A week in Perros, in Brittany, departing September 6 and travelling Dover-Calais, is £149; via Portsmouth-Cherbourg it is £240 (for two adults and up to four children).

■ Other operators include Brittany Ferries Holidays (0990 360360), French Life (0113-239 0077), Eurocamp (01545 626262), French Country Camping (01545 626264).

■ French Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1 (0891 244123; 50p a minute).

Lacs there were 62 herbs and spices on offer and nine varieties of olives. At the butcher's were home-made hazelnut sausages. A woman selling preserves from a table set against a wall offered pots of jam made from Jura wine and also, improbably, from milk.

We were staying in well-equipped mobile homes on campsites next to lakes — at Aiguebelette, near Chambéry, and Lac de Chalain, 120km away in the Jura. The children had swum, fished, played table tennis and gone to discos in return for visiting places of interest with us.

One of the places we had visited had been Aix les Bains, granddaddy of all spas since Roman times. We had imagined Queen Victoria there, taking her clothes off and sweating. It was that sort of place. And it was at Aix that we checked our watches and suddenly went in search of a phone box.



The river Thiou flows through the resort of Annecy, whose attractions include *tariflette* — potato slices in a sauce made from reblochon, the hard white mountain cheese

On a bench next to the box we prepared the picnic that would either be a celebration or a consolation. We could see Toby talking, though we could not hear him. His face was deadpan. By arrangement, his grandfather was opening the letter from the examiners. It was only when he came out and grinned — the first

real grin for a week — that the holiday began in earnest. Eight GCSE passes. No really bad grades and a few A-stars. It was a triumph indeed, considering his teachers' predictions.

Right at the start of the holiday we had given ourselves a treat, booking a luxurious two days at the

Newport Bay Club at Disneyland Paris. It was fantastic in every sense, but something about the swimming pools, the rides, the processions, had made me lose my senses. I felt so young that I shaved my beard off.

Why I imagined that the pink fool in the mirror would be the person who grew the

beard 25 years earlier, heaven knows. Shockingly, depressingly, it was not, as my family helped me to understand. Instant regrowth was the only option.

That was a bad decision. But then, it was something I had wanted to do for ages. And isn't that what holidays are for?

Camped out in comfort



Tent holidays offer freedom to live at your chosen level

Brittany was a further joy of our trip. For once a place lived up to its hype. The coastline was magical; we watched fishing boats go out to sea from prosperous ports and walked along sandy beaches in rocky coves that were remarkably deserted — another bonus of avoiding the main summer weeks.

The subtle blue-grey colours of Brittany entranced us, causing profound regret at what has happened to similar British townscapes. Here there were no garish high-rise buildings to displace the eye but there was much to entice the visitor, especially the older ones, as the towns on the coast recall vanished childhood memories.

The restaurants seemed good and fair in price, with crispies a local hallmark and much delicious seafood. At Chez Pierre in Raguenes Plage, a small town on the north

coast, we enjoyed superbly cooked cod and a gratin of mussels as the main courses of our Fr110 (£11) lunches in a room intent on its food. The dessert was equally special: a flambéed crème that was delicate and delicious.

A prime advantage of Brittany is its accessibility. It can be reached easily in a day from southern England and its winding coastline can be explored

where spacious showers and washing-up areas for the campers.

Sleeping in the tent posed no problems. We had taken both sleeping bags and duvets. The bed was comfortable and the tent was wind-proof. We could hear the wind as it belled above us, but we did not feel it. Rain was likewise confined only to our hearing. Crucially, for us, it was out of high season and therefore

quiet, with both sites only half-full.

We went at that time because we both love France and the prices charged by holiday companies in early September are remarkably good value. And the strength of the pound, which once again buys ten francs, makes France an even bigger bargain this autumn.

As an extra inducement, the local supermarkets offered top-quality salads and fruit, so food shopping was never a chore.

Camping offers great freedom. It is up to you to decide at what level you want to live. You can go out to local restaurants for all your meals or cook and eat everything at the campsite. The tent made an excellent and comfortable base, with separate bedrooms for us as a couple and another for children or guests.

Having left behind our 21-year-old twins, Tom and Matthew, it meant their beds were available for us to store our clothes and suitcases. Not that we did not miss them enormously, but who wants a tidy tent? And there were no complaints when yet another day turned out to be wet and windy, and yet we managed to avoid the "So what are we all going to do?" refrain. Was it any wonder that we enjoyed being a couple again?

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Britain: this is a good time to be amazed by mazes, says Susannah Jowitt, who explores some of the best

This weekend, in a field of maize near Oxford, thousands of adults will tell their children to "Get lost" — and the youngsters will do just that. No, it's not a bizarre form of family therapy, but the world's biggest maze — nearly four miles of paths leading through 10ft-high sweetcorn — and it is open to visitors until the corn is harvested at the end of September.

The Millets Farm Centre Maize Maze, at Frilford, is a great spectacle. When I climbed one of its scaffolding towers, all I could see were the coloured flags carried by each family, which they raise when they want help. The maze master sits atop his scaffolding tower to offer

advice and, if you're really lost, you can climb another tower and call him using a Wombles-style plastic speaking tube.

In Shepherd's Bush, west London, until September 7, crowds of visitors are exploring Britain's biggest inflatable maze — a multicoloured bouncy castle gone mad, called Dreamspace II, which is about equal in size to 25 Olympic swimming pools.

Ever since Theseus tangled with Ariadne, a ball of golden thread and the fearsome half-man, half-bull Minotaur, labyrinths and mazes have fascinated. Traditionally, a labyrinth consists of a single path and usually has mythical associations with entrapment. A maze is

more of a puzzle, with junctions and choices, often symbolic of a passage through life, or of fertility. Britain is the world leader in mazes, with 80 built since 1980, some in public spaces and others in private gardens.

From ancient turf labyrinths to hedge mazes, to brickwork floors in shopping malls to the new generation of water mazes, educational mazes and sanity-threatening mirror mazes, the range is endless. What is abundantly clear is how popular they are with children.

In the Long Maze at Longleat, Wiltshire, the air was thick with excited shrieks: "We're nearly there... Run, Mum." Through the thick yew hedge to my left, came a

disconsolate little voice: "I'll never get there... Nobody waited for me." "Mazes have always been a great tease," says Adrian Fisher, who has designed many of the mazes built in Britain in the past 17 years. "They should be an exciting experience for people, and different every time, as if you are seeing your own personal movie; yet it's reality and you're having to make your own choices."

● Millets Farm Centre Maize Maze, Frilford, Oxfordshire (01865 391260); follow signs from A420 Oxford-Swindon Road. Open Thurs-Sun 10am-4.30pm until end of Sept. Adults £3, children £2. Entry to the coloured maze and rope maze free.

● Dreamspace II, Shepherd's Bush Green, west London. Open 1-5pm daily until Sept 7. Free. Nearest Tube Shepherd's Bush.



At this maize maze near Oxford, families wave coloured flags when needing help



The neatly trimmed yew hedge maze in the beautiful grounds of Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, was planted in 1962 to an earlier simply connected design, and acts as a magnet to tempt passers-by into another area of the garden

Get lost with the maze craze

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The Ancient Turf Labyrinth, Saffron Walden Common, Essex.

Leave M11 at Junction 9a and follow signs for Saffron Walden. Open year round, all times. Free.

BASED on a medieval 17-ring Christian design, the largest surviving ancient turf labyrinth stands open to all on the Common. In a bid to save the turf, the design was reversed so that you now walk on brick paths between low turf banks. An 18th-century document records that young men would race each other through the labyrinth to win the girl who waited at the centre.

Hampton Court Maze, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey (0181-781 9500).

Leave the A308 three miles west of Kingston. Open daily 9.30am-5.45pm. All-inclusive ticket £8.50, children £5.00; maze only, £2. £1.20.

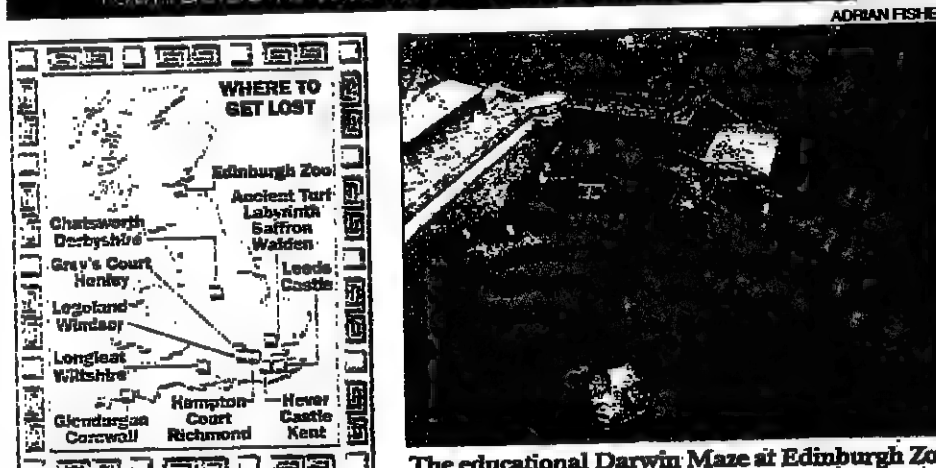
THE oldest surviving hedge maze in Britain (built in 1690), it pays the price for being the most famous by also being the most crowded, the most littered, and the most trampled, with Tarmac paths and heavily fenced, straggly yews. The heroes of Jerome K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* got lost here, but if you don't want to, just follow the hand-on-the-wall method: keep your left or right hand touching the hedge and, because this is a "simply connected" maze, you will eventually reach the middle.

Glendurgan Garden, Mawson Smith, near Falmouth, Cornwall (01028 74281).

Four miles southwest of Falmouth, on the road to Helford Passage. Open daily (except Sun and Mon) 10.30am-4.30pm until Nov 2. £2.90.

CREATED in 1833 as part of the Victorians' craze for Italianate gardens, Glendurgan is one of three mazes owned by the National Trust. It is a free-flowing, innovative design of laurel hedges. Set on the side of a narrow valley, this is a rare example of a maze where you can enjoy first the bird's-eye view, then walk across and try out the route.

WORLD GUIDE TO TEN OF THE FINEST BRITISH PUZZLERS



The educational Darwin Maze at Edinburgh Zoo

Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent (01732 865224).

Follow signs from Edenbridge town centre. Open daily 11am-5pm until Nov 30. House and garden £6.50, children £3.30; garden only, £4.90, £3.

PUT in by William Waldorf Astor in 1903, the yew maze has been joined by a water maze. The challenge is to get to the central tower and grotto without getting splashed by fountains. The moats, mazes and classic medieval castle make Hever hard to beat.

Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (01622 765400).

Follow signs from JS off M20, four miles east of Maidstone. Open daily 10am-5pm until Nov 1, then 10am-3pm. House and garden £8.50, children £5.50; garden only £6.50, £4.

BIGGER and brasser than Hever up the road, Leeds

Castle has a rather sterile, fiendish modern maze and innovative, though hideous, grotto exit tunnel.

Longleat, Warminster, Wiltshire (01985 844400).

Follow signs off A362 between Warminster and Frome. Open daily 10am-5.30pm until Nov 2. Passport to all attractions £12, children £10.

LONGLEAT is rapidly becoming the maze centre of Britain. It has Britain's largest hedge maze, with nearly two miles of pathway (although you do not walk this far if you find the right route to the centre), and cunningly placed bridges, spiral junctions and whirling lines all designed to confuse. Well worth the entrance fee, this maze attracts one in four of Longleat's 500,000 annual visitors. There are also three newer mazes: the Maze of Love, disliked by purists because of its nauseating imagery, such as the heart

former Archbishop of Canterbury, what it lacks in suspense it makes up for in Christian symbolism.

Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire (01246 582204).

Follow signs off B6012. Open daily 11am-4.30pm until Nov 2. House and garden £5.90; garden only £3.50.

AS PART of one of the most beautiful houses and garden combinations in England, the yew maze holds its own. Planted in 1962 to an earlier simply connected design, the maze acts as a magnet to tempt passers-by into another area of the garden, a device also used at Hampton Court and Grey's Court. Generously wide walkways between the hedges contrast with the green cool tunnels of Hever.

Darwin Maze, Edinburgh Zoo (0131-334 9171).

From centre of Edinburgh, follow signs for A8/M8 West towards Glasgow; the zoo is just past Murrayfield, on Costorphine Road. Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 9.30am-6pm. All-inclusive ticket £6, children £3.20.

THIS Darwin Maze is part of the modern trend to make mazes as interactive, informative and multi-dimensional as possible: it is an educational

journey through the evolution of man, all in the form of a giant Galapagos tortoise. With its two decorative brick pavements — one a 100ft version of the DNA spiral, the other a portrait of an orang-utan against a burning jungle — its quiz trail, and the possibility that you will be made extinct at the Chamber of Natural Selection with its foaming fountain gates, the attractions go beyond the fascinating puzzle of the hedge maze itself.

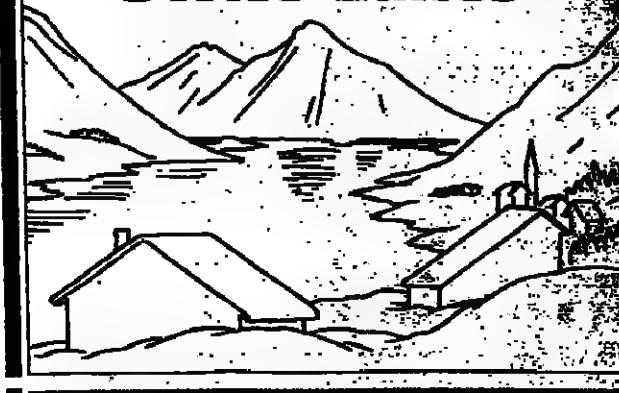
Legoland Windsor, Berkshire (0990 040404).

Follow signs from J6 M4. Open daily 10am-6pm in Sept, weekends in Oct, closed from Nov 2. All-inclusive ticket £15.50, children £12.50.

THE three inter-connected Celtic, Tudor and Nautical mazes — they are hedge mazes, not made from Lego bricks — go even further than those at Edinburgh in their inventiveness. From the moment you step through the magically parting waterfall at the Disney-style castle portals, there is a giddy array of musical chimes, interactive features and more foaming fountain gates.

For further information on mazes, call Adrian Fisher, Maze Design on 01705 353500, or check out his interactive website on: www.maze-design.co.uk.

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WEEKEND SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

Cath Urquhart, the new travel editor of The Times, on women campaigners the tour companies could not silence

Fighting the bad breaks

As her aircraft touched down on the Caribbean island of San Andres, Brenda Wall was thinking only of the tropical paradise promised in her holiday brochure.

She certainly had a memorable holiday — but for all the wrong reasons. Instead of celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary, Brenda and her husband Garry, from Castle Bromwich in the West Midlands, were laid up with dysentery and salmonella. The beach that looked so beautiful in the brochure was covered with rubbish, and flies from an open sewage pit near the hotel swarmed into the restaurant and crawled over the buffet food, which was left uncovered for hours.

This month, three years after their disastrous holiday, the Walls — and 113 fellow holidaymakers who also fell ill on San Andres — agreed an out-of-court settlement with First Choice, the company they travelled with — although First Choice has made no admission of liability. But for Mrs Wall, 55, the story is not over. After successfully coordinating the San Andres claim, she has now set up a pressure group, Holiday Travelwatch, to help other tourists bring similar cases.

"I was inundated with letters from holidaymakers," she says. "The tour operators were telling them that they were the only ones complaining, or were offering them £50 compensation. But we were talking about people with very serious illnesses. She is not alone in fighting for holidaymakers' rights. Over the past five years, several pressure groups have been founded by women who have been badly let down by holiday companies, and then found that their complaints were ignored."

Molly Maher formed Consumer Safety International in 1992 after her son Gary, then 26, died and her daughter Sheree, now 34, was permanently disabled when they inhaled poisonous fumes from a faulty gas water heater at their holiday apartment in Tenerife in 1985.

At first, says Mrs Maher, the holiday companies did not want to talk to her, although she had the backing of Labour's consumer affairs spokesman — and now minister — Nigel Griffiths. "But now we are past that stage and we talk. We inspect holiday accommodation used by British tour operators and ask them to improve it. Now there's a constructive atmosphere of support and co-operation," she said.

Mrs Maher believes pressure from CSI was instrumental in persuading the three biggest tour operators — Thomson, Airtrans and First Choice — to stop contracting accommodation that uses gas water heaters in 1995.

CSI has long campaigned for a European Union directive on gas safety that would require member states to make improvements. "We have drafted one," says Mrs Maher. "So far there has been too much opposition to it for it to become law. But we have not given up."

Jean Jewell, who formed the Single Travellers Action Group in 1994, is another tourist-turned-terrier, snapping at the heels of any holiday

company that overcharges single travellers — and that's most of them, she says. "Saga is the only company that has really taken the plight of the single traveller to heart. Many of the hotels they use do not have single supplements. But many other operators routinely charge single travellers 50 or 100 per cent more for a room than they charge one half of a couple."

Kim Winter, managing editor of *Holiday Watch* magazine, believes these campaigning women are beginning to make a difference. "These organisations were born out of the sheer frustration of getting tour operators to do anything," she says. "So many tour operators seem keen to fob you off when you complain."

"We have seen letters from their customer relations departments saying that the holidaymaker is exaggerating the problem. This only makes people more determined to pursue their case." Such indifference has made disaffected holidaymakers turn to groups such as Holiday Travelwatch, she says. "Brenda Wall got people together so they could afford to split the costs, and to give each other moral support."

The holiday companies broadly dismiss the efforts of these groups, saying that the introduction of the European Union Package Travel Regulations in 1992 had a far greater impact on their approach to safety and to customer relations. These rules mean that if something goes wrong on holiday, you can sue the tour operator in Britain instead of the local hotelier or company that was at fault.

But the three pressure groups were formed after the regulations were introduced. Brenda Wall's disastrous holiday occurred two years after they came into force. Campaigners say there is still a desperate need for pressure groups when normal complaints procedures fail.

Even some industry figures admit that the groups are doing some good. Martin Brackenbury, director of development and human resources for the Thomson Travel Group, said: "Consumer Safety International started off all over the place — but it is now a very sensible and intellectual group."

Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, says: "For too long the tour operators have accepted second-rate safety standards in accommodation. But now their tune has changed, because of people such as Molly Maher and Brenda Wall."

Says Mrs Wall, "Setting up this group was the only way I have been able to succeed. If people band together to take these tour operators on, they will have to think again."

Flies from an open sewage pit near the hotel swarmed into the restaurant and over the food.



After Sheree Maher, left, was disabled and her brother killed on holiday, their mother Molly, right, launched a consumer-safety pressure group

CONSUMER SAFETY INTERNATIONAL

WHEN Molly Maher heard what had happened to her son and daughter on holiday in Tenerife, she and her late husband Peter flew out to investigate. At first they were fobbed off. "The local paper got it all wrong and said that it was a husband and wife suicide pact," says Mrs Maher, 59.

"The local authorities said the case was closed," she adds. "But we are not the sort of people to take everything at face value and we started to discover what had happened."

"We kept calling for an inquiry but there were many delays. Finally the Westminster coroner held an inquest a year after Gary's death and recorded a verdict of accidental death by carbon monoxide poisoning."

SHEREE slowly recovered from the incident, although she is still confined to a wheelchair. By then her mother had become convinced that something had to be done to publicise such hazards at holiday resorts — whether they be faulty water heaters, poorly designed swimming pools, or blocked fire exits — so she launched the campaigning organisation, Consumer Safety International.



Gary Maher: killed

"There should be a government-funded helpline so not only can you get emergency assistance, but also help in obtaining justice later," she says. "But there's no government department responsible for the safety of holidaymakers abroad."

Her advice to anyone staying in accommodation that uses gas-powered water heaters is to leave a window open, and to use hot water for as short a time as possible.

"They should also avoid using gas-powered grills, and complain immediately if you believe the heater is faulty."

CSI, 92 Breamore Road, Ilford, Essex IG3 9NN. Tel: 0181-597 6263.

SINGLE TRAVELLERS ACTION GROUP

JEAN Jewell took her first solo holiday in September 1993, a coach trip to Tuscany, after the death of her husband John earlier that year. As a single traveller, she was given sparsely furnished, dark rooms in attics or at the back of hotels.

"I suddenly realised that I was paying more for less," she says. "I decided I was not going to put up with this for the rest of my travelling life."

Mrs Jewell, now 70, formed the Single Travellers Action Group (STAG) in March 1994, and it now has more than 3,000 members. She campaigns for a better deal for the millions of holidaymakers who wish to travel solo with a tour operator. Most of them are charged a single-person supplement, so they pay more than half the price a couple will pay, yet they are usually given "a broom cupboard by the lift shaft," says Mrs Jewell.

Companies often justify these supplements by arguing that single travellers do not spend as much in the bar or restaurant as couples. Mrs Jewell disagrees: "In a strange town, for example, a woman single traveller is more likely to stay in the hotel to eat than a couple, who will probably wander out to explore. Single travellers are definitely discriminated against and considered a confounded nuisance until it's time to pay up."

Single Travellers Action Group, Church Lane, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1PR. Membership £8 a year.



Jean Jewell: I realised I was paying more for less

TRAVELWATCH

FOOD poisoning has become the dominant theme of complaints against holiday companies this summer.

Thomson has had to withdraw from a hotel on Ibiza after 20 people fell ill, and Thomson and Sunworld have both had to move people from hotels in the Dominican Republic following outbreaks of food poisoning and typhoid. Brenda Wall, who launched Holiday Travelwatch, is not surprised.

"I have had 5,000 people contact me this month complaining of food poisoning on holiday, so I am grouping together people who stayed at the same place so they can make joint compensation claims," she says.

The destination where holidaymakers are most likely to contract food poisoning, she adds, is the Dominican Republic. "Hygiene standards there are not always high," she says.

"Holidaymakers must seriously think about everything that goes into their mouths."

"Make sure that the seal on your water bottle is not broken. And remember to avoid food that has been left uncovered, and make sure that it is piping hot."

Holiday Travelwatch, 190 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6QD.



Brenda Wall: warning

MUSIC OF THE TSARS

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THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Moscow. Scheduled flights to Moscow. On arrival drive to the Lev Tolstoy and embark.

Day 2 Moscow. Morning visit to the Kremlin. After lunch on board drive to Klen for a visit to Tchaikovsky's home. Guided tour of Moscow for dinner, followed by a performance by the Vaganova School's Classical Ballet at the Maryinsky Theatre.

Day 3 Moscow. Morning city tour including the Kremlin and the Palace of Tsar Nicholas II. Afternoon visit to the Bolshoi Theatre. Evening concert by the Bolshoi Orchestra.

Day 4 Uglich. Sail along the Volga to Uglich, a delightful 'Golden Ring' city. See the Kremlin and the Palace of Tsar Nicholas II. Evening concert by the Bolshoi Orchestra.

Day 5 Kostroma. Morning visit to one of the loveliest of the cities of the Golden Ring, Kostroma. Arrive in the late afternoon. Staying for some 18 miles on both banks of the Volga this important port was founded in the 11th century by Prince Yaroslav the Wise. Spend some time in the Church of Elijah the Prophet, its walls and vaulting are covered in fine old Russian paintings. Concert on board by Opera Interludes.

Day 6 Irkutsk. Weather permitting, we shall sail in this city, surrounded by woodland for a Russian picnic, barbecue and an outdoor concert. There will be the opportunity for country walks and relaxation in this lovely setting.

Day 7 Kizhi. Cross Lake Onega to Kizhi, an enchanting island. See the 18th century, 22 domed wooden Church of the Transfiguration, which is amazingly constructed without the use of nails.

Day 8 Cruising.

Day 9 St Petersburg. Sail along the Neva to the city of St Petersburg. Arrive in the early afternoon. Concert on board by Opera Interludes.

Day 10 St Petersburg. Morning city tour on the canal and the great composers including the homes or memorials of Tchaikovsky, Glinka and Rimsky-Korsakov. After lunch visit St Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress where the war will end with a specially arranged Bell Concert. Late afternoon concert at the St Petersburg Philharmonic Society.

Day 11 St Petersburg. Drive to Peterhof the magnificent palace built by Peter the Great. Afternoon visit to the Hermitage, followed by a reception at the Yassovskoy Palace for a brief tour, champagne, cocktail and caviar and a performance by the St Petersburg Opera Company. Return to the ship for a farewell dinner and gala concert by Opera Interludes.

Day 12 St Petersburg to London. In the morning visit the Russian Museum or free time for personal sightseeing and shopping. Arrive London in the evening.

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Single sailors go to Greece

SEAFARER CRUISES (0171-234 0500) is offering its first Greek Island cruise especially for single travellers on what is called a Cycladic Jewels holiday.

The cruise departs from Athens on October 10 and planned on the itinerary are visits to the islands of Paros, Santorini, Ios, Naxos, Delos, Mykonos, Tinos and Kea.

Seafarer's cruises are informal, using motor yachts which carry 40 or so passengers in air-conditioned cabins with private facilities. They are likely to appeal most to the 20-50 age group.

On the Cycladic Jewels holiday, each passenger pays £595 for sole occupancy of a twin cabin, or between £490 and £649 if they are prepared to share. Prices include flights.

Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) is now offering a number of special deals for the much-penalised single parent holidaymaker on a few of its American packages. At certain hotels in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas, for example, a single parent will be allowed the full children's discount in a family room.

A week at the Hyatt Regency in Los Angeles costs from £579 to £789 per adult; two weeks will cost from £769 to £999. These prices include flights and accommodation. If children aged under 12 share the room, they pay half these prices. Multi-centre holidays are also available.

VISITORS to Rome who cannot face the unholy scramble to view the Vatican's Sistine Chapel might consider the six-day Connoisseur's Rome trip, starting on November 28, organised by art specialist Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355). This includes an afternoon's private visit to the Chapel, as well as other medieval, Renaissance and Baroque collections of post-classical Rome. The trip, accompanied by lecturer Hugh Brigstocke, costs £990 which includes flights, B&B, three dinners with wine and all entrance fees.

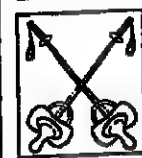
African birds

FOR Chris Breen, who organises wildlife holidays from Alaska to Zimbabwe, the blue-capped carmine bee-eater is the most beautiful

bird there is. The arrival and nesting of these intra-Africa migrants on the banks of Zambia's Luangwe River in September is one of the world's most colourful spectacles.

Mr Breen's company, Worldlife Worldwide (0181-667 9158), offers two 13-day natural history tours, departing September 17 and 24, to coincide with the migration and to spot endemic sub-species such as the Cookson's wildebeest and Crawshaw's zebra. The tours cost £2,080, fully inclusive.

Dummy run



REUNITING a lost and distressed child with his Easter ski class in the Trois Vallées a few years ago, I was horrified to discover that his class of seven to ten-year-olds consisted of 35 children.

Family specialist Ski Esprit (01252 616789) was similarly appalled at the child-instructor ratios and the "poseur" ski teachers. The company employs its own local instructors, who are "all prepared to double as nose-wipers". It insists on a ratio of 1:6 for the younger age group and 1:8, or occasionally 1:10, for older children. Five-day Ski Clubs are divided between three to four-year-olds (Spritelets) and five to ten-year-olds (Sprites), and cost £89. New half-day activity clubs run by "Snow Rangers" entertain three to ten-year-olds who cannot cope with a full day's skiing, and cost

£50 for three days, £95 for six days. Nurseries with qualified British nannies for children aged four months upwards cost £115 a week.

A week's chalet-based half-board holiday in a choice of six French resorts costs £398, with discounts of 25 per cent to 50 per cent for children up to 17 years. Flights, wine with meals and a night's baby-sitting are included.

Drink 'n' drive

A NEW Hops and Vineyards itinerary from Inntravel (01653 628811) directs beer and wine enthusiasts on a self-drive meander from French Flanders, through the hunting forests of Picardy to Champagne country. Overnight stays are in village auberges which offer traditional regional cooking. For example, the Hostellerie St Louis, in the Flemish village of Bollezeele, is in an area that produces some of France's best beers; the Auberge St Vincent, at Ambonnay, gets the whole village engaged in the production of its bubbly.

The price is £287-£299 for the six-night tour which includes ferry fares for car and passengers and two nights' half-board at each of the auberges.

Bushman's life

HOLIDAYMAKERS are offered an insight into the life of traditional Bushmen in the Kalahari on a six-day safari in Botswana. Sleeping in grass shelters (but with beds, bucket showers and long-

drop loos), learning the art of tracking and how to extract medicines from plants are all part of the experience, which is organised by a non-profit making Bushman Pressure Group, affiliated to the United Nations, and the Uncharted Africa Safari Company. The aim is to create awareness of the plight of the Bushmen, whose lifestyle is threatened with extinction by resettlement.

The six-day Bush Experience, which costs £1,375 per person (excluding flights), can be organised by the specialist British tour firms Africa Exclusive (01604 28979) and Cazenove and Loyd (0181-875 9666).

HERE is a chance to explore Chianti country on a budget — after our political leaders have departed.

Eurocamp (01565 626262) can offer tents and mobile homes in Figline Valdarno, between Siena and Florence, from September 19 until October 27 for a total of £465 for a two-week break for up to six people (two adults and four children). This price includes the rent of the tent or mobile home, and the ferry crossing over the Channel for car and passengers. Campers will have to drive there, which may mean an overnight stay en route.

New York news

WHILE I was in America earlier this month, I noticed how many of the tourist guides spoke with strong foreign accents, and wondered what had happened to the all-American product. All was explained in *The New York Times*. "Niche for Newcomers in Leading Sightseers" was the headline. Seemingly foreign tourists want guides who not only speak their language but also "share the culture". At New York Double Decker Tours, for instance, all 15 guides are from other countries as they can "bring a cultural insight that few Americans can ever achieve".

However, for the all-American visitors to New York, all-American guides are seemingly still the best: the natives just want to know where the stars live, where the models hang out and what's playing where, while foreign guides "might take a group of tourists through the Bronx and forget to point out the Yankee Stadium". For those visitors needing guidance on guides, the peripatetic New York Convention and Visitors Bureau is about to move to 810 Seventh Avenue, between 52nd and 53rd Streets (001 212 484 1200).



In search of ancient civilisations

LOGGING and agriculture in the forests of northern Thailand have caused enormous deforestation and loss of wildlife. Environmental charity Earthwatch (01865 311600) seeks volunteers to help research the problem. The fortnightly projects, between November and March, cost £1,080 per person. Volunteers

are also needed to investigate the disappearance of the ancient Bagan civilisation, whose large monumental heads, above, still baffle the imagination. The 15-day project in October and November cost £1,350 each. Board and lodging are provided by Earthwatch, but travel costs are extra for all trips.



Bird watch: The carmine bee-eater arrives in Zambia in September

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dreaming about it.
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the plunge, you want
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Cruises

The ever-chic New England island still charms – especially when the crowds start to thin, says Tom Pocock

Sweet late harvest on Martha's Vineyard



Horny-handed sons of toil were scarce at the Martha's Vineyard farmers' market. The farmers present tended to be organic, female and middle-class; one had been an architect and most of them looked as if they had taken arts degrees. If not selling chemical-free fruit and vegetables, they marketed their own brands of jams, soft drinks or sauces such as lavender lemonade, pesto Vineyardo and a product labelled "Warning! May be addictive", which turned out to be a delicious mixture of sea salt, basil, parsley, onion and garlic.

But this is what one expects on this little island off the coast of Massachusetts. Literate Americans from Boston, New York and New England have long known about Martha's Vineyard, so named when an Englishman named Bartholomew Gosnold charted the island for the British crown in 1602, and named it after his daughter, and for the wild grapes and berries he saw growing there.

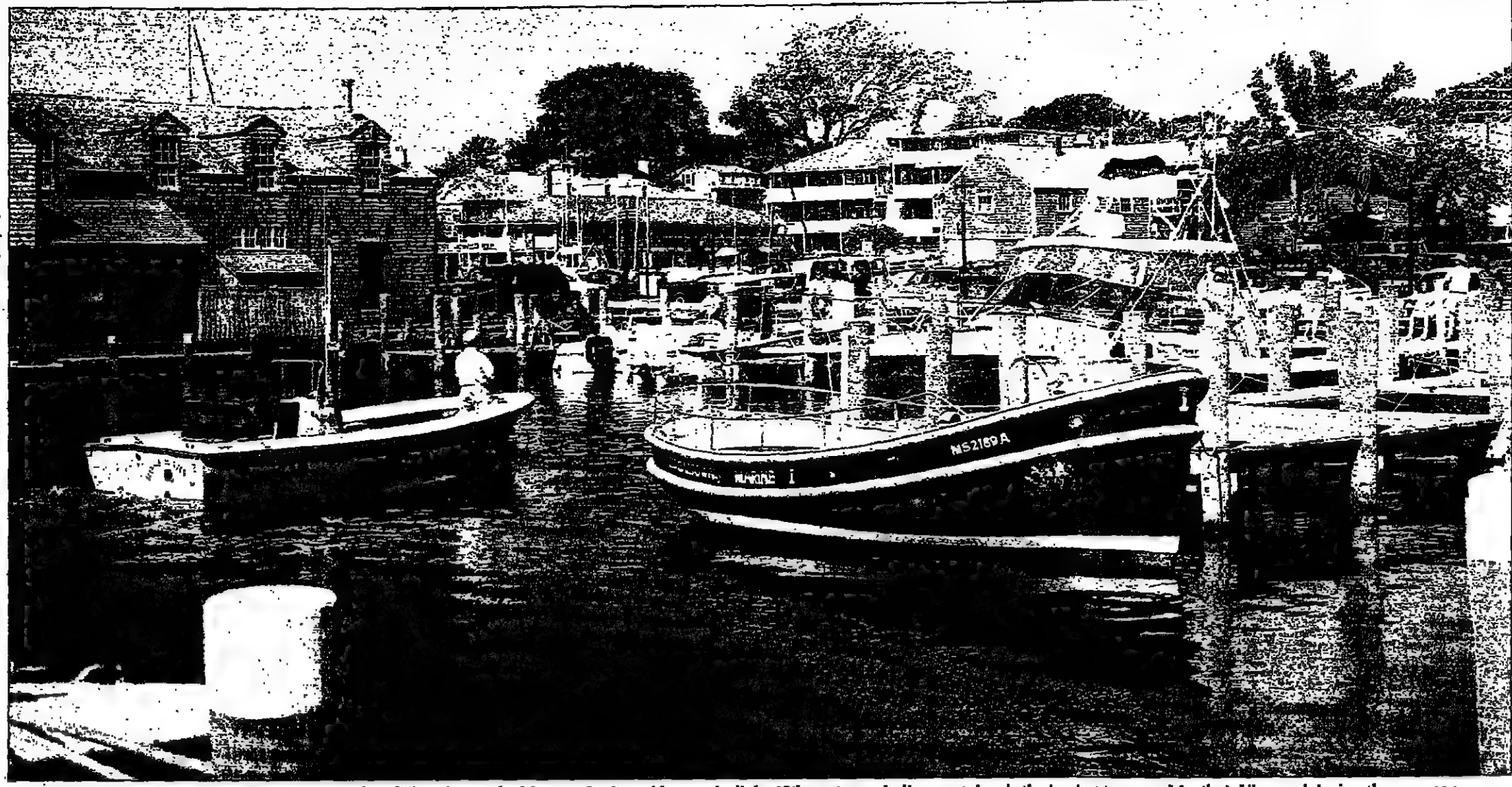
The island is about the size of the Isle of Wight, some 20 miles long and nine miles across at its widest point, covered with woodland of scrub oak and pine, or farmland divided by dry-stone walls, and surrounded by sandy beaches.

Once inhabited in summer by seafarers (suitably, one of the oldest land-owning families is named Hornblower), farmers and Indians, it proved ideal for holidays, on which one could pretend to go abroad by taking the ferry for the seven-mile voyage from Woods Hole on the mainland.

Word got about and soon there was an annual invasion. Now, the island's population of about 12,000 rises to nearly 100,000 for the summer. Its six little towns become very crowded – notably Edgartown, with its pretty, white, weather-boarded houses built by whaling captains contemporaries of *Moby Dick*, porticoed churches and a bar from the prohibition period, still misleadingly named The Reading Room.

Each town took on its own character: Chilmark is said to be the smartest; black professionals choose Oak Bluffs with its little wooden gingerbread houses; and Vineyard Haven is the lively working port. Those who have chosen to retire or holiday regularly here show passionate attachment to the island.

Other notables have sought retirement here. Robert MacNamara, US Defence Secretary at the time of the Vietnam War, lives in the seclusion of these thick woods, and the singer Carly



Edgartown, with its pretty harbour, porticoed churches and white weatherboard houses built by 19th-century whaling captains, is the busiest town on Martha's Vineyard during the summer

ment to the island. It may not be as beautiful as they claim, but it is charming. It is not spectacular, and even the desolate promontory called Gay Head, which has been turned into a tourist attraction, with its car park and viewing points, would go unnoticed in Devon or Cornwall.

There is much talk of country life and closeness to nature; sometimes too close because the woods are full of deer ticks, and poison ivy. Verandas and windows have to be shielded by fine-mesh wire screens to keep out biting insects.

There is another form of infestation, which is causing far more concern to the ladies of the farmers' market and their customers. It all began when Edward Kennedy drove his car off the bridge over Chappaquiddick creek in 1969, was confirmed by the purchase of an estate on the island by the late Jackie Kennedy Onassis, and continues with visits from the Clintons – who have just spent three weeks here – and Princess Diana.

Other notables have sought retirement here. Robert MacNamara, US Defence Secretary at the time of the Vietnam War, lives in the seclusion of these thick woods, and the singer Carly

Simon and the humorist Art Buchwald also live here. So, no wonder Martha's Vineyard has become such a smart address with new money buying so-called "trophy homes" with guest cottages for visitors in summer.

The camp-followers come too, of course, and all year they can be seen photographing each other, grinning on the bridge at Chappaquiddick.

Yet much that is pleasant survives. New houses are built of wood and must be sited and built to conform. Virgin land is bought up by the island authorities to preserve it from development and to create nature reserves, well served by footpaths.

The original islanders, the tough farmers and whalers, might have been happy to sell what they probably saw as a bleak little island to the highest bidder, but the new colonists fight for the beaches with Churchillian resolve. They are vocal and articulate and their views are given currency by the editor of the island's leading newspaper, *The Vineyard Gazette*.

Conservationist battles are fought and usually won. One recent victory was over the Wampanoag Indians still living around Gay Head, who decided to spend the government compensation for land lost in the last century on opening a casino resort on the island. The ferry company was persuaded to limit numbers of

passengers, and so limit the number of potential gamblers, and the Indians were persuaded to open their casino on the mainland.

This patriotism is fiercest when the summer holidays end, and half the houses are shut for the winter, as are many of the boutiques. Now is the time for the resident writers to huddle over their word-processors and cottage industries to stock up for the next season.

These include the Wampanoag Indians' charming costume jewellery made from blue quabog clam shells and, at Chilmark, a chocolate factory staffed by the handicapped, which makes unforgettable cruises.

The next two months are a perfect time to visit, as the summer tourists leave, the display of New England autumn colours begins. As the evenings start to darken, it is time to start browsing in the voluminous second-hand bookshop Book Den East at Oak Bluffs.

The celebrities and builders of trophy homes have returned to their cities, the scrub oaks lash in the tails of Atlantic hurricanes and the sea is at times too rough even for the sturdy little ferries from Woods Hole.

Then the skies clear and the night sky glitters with stars free from urban light-pollution. And at such times Martha's Vineyard is as addictive as that concoction of sea salt and herbs.

As summer tourists leave, autumn colours begin.

Island's peace lures famous

From the aircraft, Martha's Vineyard looks an unlikely holiday destination. Its beaches are small and rugged; some are better known for their red cliffs and violet sunsets than their swimming. There are no grand hotels, and few swimming pools.

Although there are large, historic homes in Edgartown, the old whaling port, and elaborately woodworked cottages surrounding Oak Bluffs, Tabernacle Methodist camp-ground, most homes on the Vineyard are made of weathered wood and wrapped by wooden decks.

Why, then, do the well-heeled – America's First Family most prominent among them – choose the austere handsome Vineyard for their summer hideaway?

Precisely because they can hide away here. Martha's Vineyard, nicknamed "The Rock", is swathed in oak forest. And its deep cleaving sea inlets create miles of hard-to-reach shoreline, accessible only by private right of way or yacht.

Add to these natural features the residents' tendency to pay the famous visitors little heed. "That," says Laurence Michie, associate publisher of the 151-year-old *The Gazette*, "is our mystique."

President Bill Clinton this month retreated to an acquaintance's well-hidden estate, appearing in public only when he chose. Fellow celebrities – various members of the Kennedy clan, actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen (hosts of Clinton's 51st birthday clambake on the island), singers



First among equals: the Clintons sail with the Kennedys

Carly Simon and Jimmy Buffet, author William Styron, and media figures Walter Cronkite and Katharine Graham, – tend to dine in or exchange invitations among themselves.

Consequently, celebrity spotting is difficult. The most likely place to see a famous

face is the Savoir Faire restaurant in Edgartown (recently spotted: Styron and columnist Art Buchwald). The less publicity-shy Clintons visited book and clothes shops in Vineyard Haven.

From his studio there, artist Travis Tuck has sold some of his large, beautifully worked copper weathervanes to familiar figures: a dinosaur to the Jurassic Park film director Steven Spielberg, and a winged messenger to an executive from Mercury Communications.

Meanwhile, night-time here is a much livelier affair than it used to be. Younger crowds bar crawl around Oak Bluffs, while big spenders fill Edgartown. Vineyard Haven has laidback cafes and the always-thronged Black Dog Tavern and bakery. The easy-going Home Port in tiny Menemsha probably has the freshest fish.

Everywhere but Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, you must take your own wine and beer along.

Martha's Vineyard may harbour the famous, but it isn't snobby. For most holiday-makers, the lighthouses, sailing, golfing, fishing, surf-battered beaches, winding roads and sand dunes are the enduring attractions.

ANITA PELTONEN

● Savoir Faire (001 508 627 9864): 14 Church St, Edgartown; Mediterranean cuisine.
● Black Dog Tavern (001 508 693 9223): Beach St extension, Vineyard Haven; burgers, fish, chowders.
● Home Port (001 508 645 2670), end of North Road, Menemsha.

● Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) has a dedicated New England brochure. The 1998 issue is out next month. Current availability includes two weeks at the Falmouth Inn, Falmouth, room only for £609pp, departing November 10, including hire car. Insurance adds another £294.
● New England Country Homes (01798 869020) also has a brochure with inclusive flight, car and accommodation packages.
● The ferry terminal at Woods Hole can be reached by Bonanza bus (\$17/£1) from Boston's Logan Airport. Driving time from the airport to Woods Hole is two and a half hours.
● Ferries are run by the Martha's

GETTING THERE

Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority (001 508 477 8600). Summer gets busy – book in advance. The pedestrian fare on the ferry is \$4.25 (£2.50).
● Cars, Jeeps, mopeds, and bicycles can be hired on the island. Shuttle buses operate between the island's two ferry ports, Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs, and the other four towns.
● Martha's Vineyard Reservations (001 508 693 7200) can book inns, B&Bs and hotels. Prices don't start much below £100 a night per double room. The modernised

Victorian Harbor View Inn and the Thimble Inn, a 19th-century inn with four-poster beds, charge £250 (£150) a night.
● Reading: Dorothy West is a member of the long-standing African-American community in Oak Bluffs. Her excellent novel, *The Wedding*, portrays island life.
● An Introduction to Martha's Vineyard, by Gale Huntington (Duke County Historical Society, Edgartown, \$8.95) combines history with a guide to the island.
● Further information: Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce (P O Box 1698, Beach Road, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, USA; 001 508 693 4480).

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE Mind Sports Olympiad at the Festival Hall in London, which finished last week, attracted world champions, grandmasters and experts in a wide variety of thinking sports and mental skills. A total of 58 countries were represented, with more than 2,000 competitors present on the spot. The chess events were attended by the co-British champions, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler, as well as grandmasters Julian Hodgson, Stuart Conquest, David Norwood, Bogdan Lalic, James Plaskett and Keith Arkell. The following game, in a sharp variation of the Sicilian Defence, was one of the most interesting and important from a theoretical point of view.

White: James Plaskett. Black: Julian Hodgson.
Mind Sports Olympiad with Skandia 1997
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7
7 f3 0-0 8 Qd2 Nc6
9 Bc4 Bd7

White has selected one of the sharpest lines against Black's Dragon Sicilian. White's intention is to castle queenside and then blitz the opposing king.

10 Bb3 Re8 11 h4 h5
This blocking manoeuvre became popular after several games from the 1995 World Championship between Anand and Kasparov.

12 0-0-0 Ne5 13 Bg5 Re5
14 f4

In game 17 of the Anand-Kasparov match from New York 1995, White played 14 Kf1. The divergence here is more forcing.

14... Nf4 15 Qd3 b5
16 Rh1

Massing his forces in the centre. Nevertheless, this natural move appears to be a novelty. Perhaps it has been neglected because of the possibility that White's bishop on g5 may become exposed. Hodgson immediately sets about seeking to exploit this factor.

16... Ng4
Attention should be devoted to the alternative 16... Nh7. As played, Black introduces ideas of both... Nf2 and... f6 winning material.

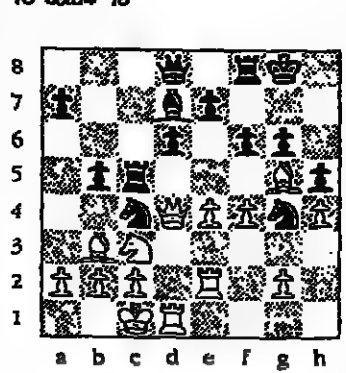
By Raymond Keene
Black to play. This position is from the game Jimenez-Gligoric, Palma 1967.

Black has various reasonable moves here, but only one is completely crushing. Can you see it?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Stratton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qh7+

17 Re2 Bxd4
And not the immediate 17... f6 on account of 18 Ndx5.



Black's strategy means White's bishop is trapped, so White unleashes the power of his central pawns.

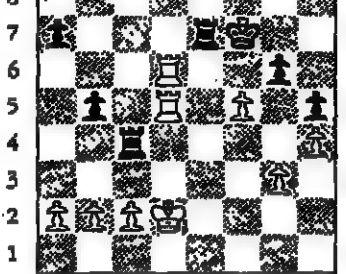
19 e5 Bc6
If 19... f5 20 exd6 poses Black insuperable problems, given that his knight on c4 remains pinned.

20 exf6 exf6 21 Re6 Qd7
In this case 21... f5 fails to 22 Rxf6+.

22 Rde1 Rf7
To parry the threat of Re7, but now White can extricate his dark-squared bishop to advantage.

23 Bxf6 Nxf6 24 Rde6 Kf7
25 Ree6 Rg7 26 g3 Bf6
27 Ne4 Bxe4 28 Qxe4 Qc6
29 Qxc6 Rxc6 30 Bxc4 Rxc4
31 Rxc6 Rg7 32 Rd2 Re4
33 Rd6 Re1+ 34 Rd1 Re7
35 Rf6 Kg7 36 Kd2 Kf7
37 Rf6 Re4 38 f5

White's fine manoeuvres have led to an overwhelming endgame and Black soon resigned.



White's fine manoeuvres have led to an overwhelming endgame and Black soon resigned.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Black to play. This position is from the game Jimenez-Gligoric, Palma 1967.

Black has various reasonable moves here, but only one is completely crushing. Can you see it?

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Last week's solution: 1 Qh7+

Last week's winner:
E Nicholson, Heaton, Bradford, W Yorks.

Black has various reasonable moves here, but only one is completely crushing. Can you see it?

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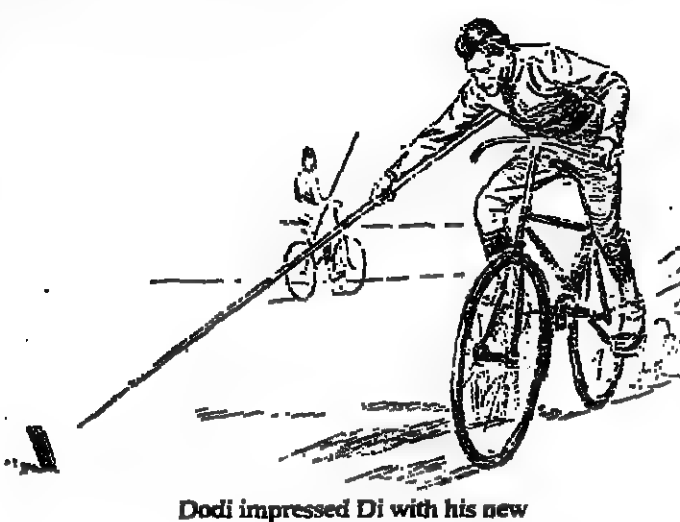
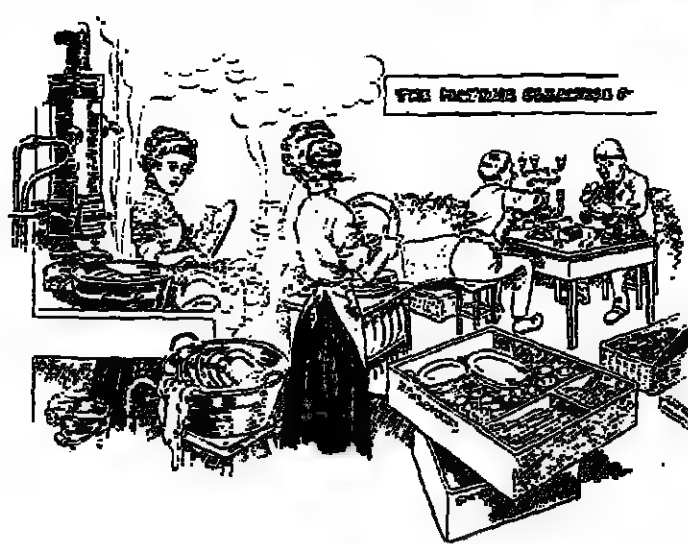
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock-Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 66, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 3.



Dodi impressed Di with his new method of destroying mines

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Clarke of Coleford, Gloucestershire

THE computer screen can be an unhealthy snare as it holds us captive for hours at a stretch to surf the Net or play games. There are ways to minimise strain and stress during lengthy stints in front of a monitor. Every half an hour or so it is a good idea to look away from the screen and focus on something on the other side of the room, which exercises tired eyes.

Place the monitor at a height that feels comfortable, and if you get stiff or aching shoulders, stand up and stretch hourly. Lastly, untie painful knots in the upper-back muscles by pushing your shoulders together four or five times; you may look like a flapping duck trying to fly but it should help.

Continually staring into the screen is not the only way to enjoy the computer, of course. Cross-over craft titles allow you to start a project on the desktop but finish it elsewhere with your hands, and for children they can be just as engrossing as a build-your-own-radio or blow-up-your-own-bedroom science kit.

Anglia Multimedia has launched Super Iron-On Kit and Super Create-A-Book Kit. Each includes a dual format PC/Mac CD-Rom and materials for projects. I favour

the first, which comes with a blank white T-shirt (size: "Kids L"), four A4 sheets of specially coated transfer paper and a small pot of luminous fabric paint with a paintbrush.

The delightful software runs with all the panache and zing of Brotherband's Kids Pix Studio. Max the dog is your amiable guide, on hand should you get lost. Stylish designs are simple to put together by sizing and mixing photographs with colour clip-art images, logos, letters and numbers. You can also import your own digital scans of pictures and photographs.

Finished artwork is printed — appropriately reversed — on to the treated A4 transfer sheets. You can use an entire A4 sheet for one large design, or carve it up to produce a multitude of smaller transfers.

The print-out is trimmed and, once positioned, ironed into place. After two minutes of gentle ironing, the backing sheet is peeled away — with tweezers unless you have asbestos fingers.

The revelation process is always exciting and the quality of the final

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SINGERIE

- a. A choral society
- b. An ornamental device
- c. A hairdressing salon

PLACITUM

- a. Soothing medicine
- b. Welcome news
- c. The decree of a judge

PLATYTERA

- a. A religious illustration
- b. Marsupials
- c. Lands below sea level

HEMIPTERA

- a. An insect
- b. A half period
- c. Ornamental edging on garments

Answers on page 16

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Barbie Fashion Designer lets you create a glamorous gown for Barbie — or Ken

print is presentable, if a little thin. The Super Iron-On Kit makes a great gift, which is appropriate since we've got a dozen to give away. Read on for details of how to enter.

There are two previously released titles in the Anglia Multimedia series: Pop-Up Greetings Kit and Window Art Kit. The latter allows you to design and print

small colour transparency pictures to frame and hang in the window.

Girls rarely get software titles aimed exclusively at them. Even troubled Eidos Interactive's sedate independent Tomb Raider heroine, Lara Croft, is not really doing it for herself so much as for the salivating male majority that buys most games. One rare exception is Mattel Media's Barbie Fashion Designer.

This includes designing software on a Windows CD-Rom, special printable fabric, silver glitter paint, colour markers and a selection of baubles and beads to adorn finished fashion miniatures. No stitching is necessary.

With this title, if you want, you can also join the ranks of New York's trendiest, who have taken to dressing up Barbie's boyfriend doll, Ken, as a transvestite.

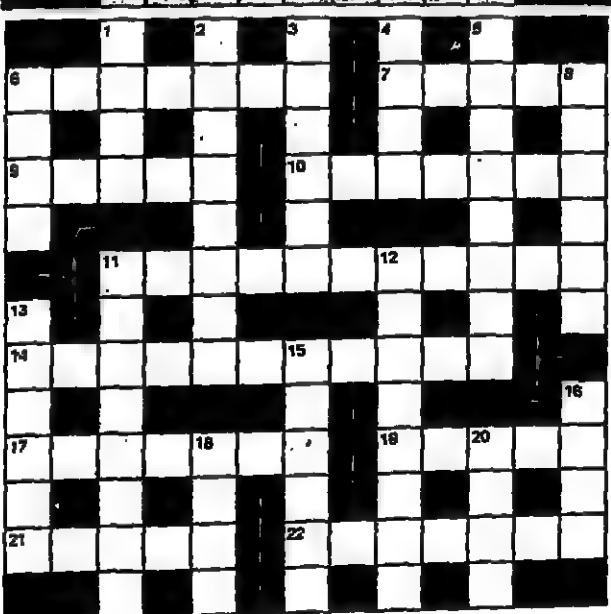
American book publisher Running Press has entered the British software market with four CD-Rom Discovery Kits. The least stoic is the Weather Tracker's Kit, that bundles software and a booklet with the accoutrements to set up a

weather station in the garden. The Dinosaur Hunter's Kit, Lost Civilisations Explorer's Kit and Gem Hunter's Kit narrowly miss the spot. Better to wait for the eventual import of other titles in the series already selling in America, such as Grow Your Own Crystals and Boston's Museum of Science Inventor's Workshop.

To win one of our 12 Anglia Multimedia Super Iron-On Kits all you have to do is come up with a great T-shirt slogan. The competition is open to all, with six kits to be won by readers aged 15 and under, and six by those who are older. Your caption can be long or short so long as it is thought-provoking or funny. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Write your slogan on a postcard, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty-Five, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

You can also e-mail your entry to us, so long as it is clearly marked Cyberspace Thirty-Five Entry, at cyber@iran.co.uk. The competition closes on Wednesday, September 10. Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into correspondence.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1186

ACROSS

- 6 Lady's private room (7)
- 7 Inappropriately (5)
- 9 Place for books, old maids (5)
- 10 Multi-clawed anchor (7)
- 11 (Living) rurally remote (2,3,4)
- 14 In cahoots (4,2,5)
- 17 Huge (7)
- 19 Tradesman: Sherlock Holmes's street (5)
- 21 Nairobi's capital (5)
- 22 Harmony (7)

DOWN

- 1 Strategem (4)

ACROSS

- 2 Bits thrown at happy couple (8)
- 3 Shoe: accent (6)
- 4 Maori, All-Black war-dance (4)
- 5 Highest point: egg spire on tower (8)
- 6 Part-statue: broken (4)
- 8 Send water over (6)
- 11 State of shame (8)
- 12 Instrument, has slide (8)
- 13 Cowen: psychiatrist (colloq.) (6)
- 15 "The glory that was —" (Poe) (6)
- 16 Lattice (4)
- 18 Close: mean (4)
- 20 John — Presbyterian founder: sounds like raps (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1185

ACROSS: 1 Gratis 5 Defect 8 Even 9 Nucleon 10 Densify 11 Vodka 13 Ad infinitum 16 Coupe (Coupe) 18 Confuse 21 Effusive 22 Vain 23 Drudge 24 Tureen
DOWN: 2 Riviera 4 Sanctify 5 Dank 6 Flat out 7 Cloak 12 Indolent 14 Impound 15 Missive 17 Offer 19 Fiver 20 Wipe

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5

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 1997

PEKING TO PARIS—THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST RALLY



Peking 1907: the original competitors went across Mongolia and Siberia — but the organisers say today's Russian Federation roads are too good to form any sort of challenge and drivers will travel through India and Pakistan instead

Lord Montagu looks forward to the rally of a lifetime

On the high road to China

Next Saturday, I shall be the first car under the starter's flag to lead off the 12,000-mile Peking-Paris Motor Challenge, which celebrates the 90th anniversary of the original race won by Prince Scipione Borghese in his 7,433cc Itala. This event, which has been four years in the planning, must be the most ambitious classic car rally ever held: not least because so many of the 96 entrants — to qualify a car must be of a type announced before the end of 1907 — are pre-1930 models.

Our route will cross the Himalayas via Tibet using the world's highest motor roads, at heights in excess of 12,000ft, and in Nepal alone we shall have to ford 13 rivers, some wider than the Thames at Westminster. In China, Tibet and Nepal, we will drive on gravel roads, often with badly broken surfaces, and sleep under canvas at night, for there are no hotels in that part of the world.

It is, incidentally, the first rally to pass through Tibet and Nepal and the first to cross Iran since 1977, for though it links Peking and Paris, its route overland is entirely different from that followed by the original



The 1915 Prince Henry Vauxhall

competitors, taking in India and Pakistan instead of Mongolia and Siberia. According to Philip Young, whose Classic Rally Association has overcome many obstacles to make this marathon possible: "There was little point in trying to retrace the 1907 route, as the Russian Federation roads are too good to form any sort of challenge!"

The choice of cars is highly individual, covering the entire spectrum from a 425cc 1958 Citroën Deux Chevaux to a 1907 La France with a 9.4-litre engine. My own choice is a 1915 Prince Henry

Vauxhall from the National Motor Museum. Designed by Laurence Pomeroy Snr and recognised as Britain's first real sports car, it distinguished itself in the pre-First World War trials held in Germany under the patronage of Prince Henry, the Kaiser's younger brother. The joy of this car is that it has good ground clearance, and it is constructed along traditional lines so that the repair work is simple — simple enough, I hope, for any Chinese or Indian mechanic. Modifications include a long-range fuel tank, strengthening the suspension, upgrading the electrical system, fitting larger duty wheels and tyres — and two cigar lighters.

Some entries — such as the 1966 Wolseley 24/80, 1960 Morris Minor, 1951 MG YB saloon and 1967 Ford Anglia Estate — would not look out of place on an outing to the supermarket; yet their owners have sufficient confidence in their powers of endurance to drive them across two continents.

Others will cover the 12,000 miles from Peking to Paris in limousine luxury: no less than five entrants will be driving Rolls-Royces, including a Phantom V driven by

Continued on page 3



Rosie Thomas: "The boxing is really making a difference"

Romantic Rosie strikes a blow for the middle-aged

Morag Preston meets an unlikely entrant

Middle-aged mother abandons family to travel halfway across the world. Could this be the bones of romantic novelist Rosie Thomas's next bestseller?

Less than a year before her fiftieth birthday, she is about to embark on the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge. The no-nonsense mother of two has learnt how to navigate, honed her driving skills, and taken up boxing to build up her strength.

"When I finished my last novel, I started moaning to my literary agent that I couldn't possibly write another one straight away," Thomas says. "He asked me what I wanted to do. I said heli-skiing, scuba diving, and most of all, I wanted to walk to Everest." Within a year, she achieved all three.

Inspiration for the rally came from Phil Bowen, her Everest expedition leader. "My kids are ready to fly the nest and I'm looking for a change," says Thomas. "I'm striking a blow for middle-aged housewives."

Thomas did not learn to drive until her late twenties, and now feels happiest behind the wheel of a BMW 325i coupé. In search of something "simple, robust, strong, attainable, and cheap,"

she and Bowen contacted the Volvo Owners' Club and found a 1966 Volvo Amazon and have spent around £15,000 turning it into a viable set of wheels.

Thomas's main concern is what will happen to the car in the scorching desert heat. Travelling through Tibet passes at 17,000ft, past Everest base camp on the highest road in the world, the team will be expected to cover distances of between 60 and 450 miles a day.

Putting in more time at the gym has not been a struggle for the fitness enthusiast: "I've just stepped up my programme a good half a dozen notches." For the last six months, she has been going to her gym every day and has taken up boxing to build up her upper body, sparring twice a week with ex-super middleweight John Davis. "Remember, the car doesn't have power steering," says Thomas. "The boxing is really making a difference."

Waiting at the finishing line in Paris will be a gaggle of the author's well-wishing friends. Her husband, literary agent Caradoc King, has been extremely supportive, she says. "He hates roughing it as much as me, but I think he's slightly jealous."

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One of the difficulties of the transport debate is that it is conducted dishonestly. There is no intention to deceive, but there is dishonesty by omission

Up to a point, Mr Prescott...

The road to hell is paved with good intentions, although of course the Government would either have cancelled it or had it built and owned by the private sector. Never mind: much of what John Prescott said last week when he launched the plan to get cars off the roads made perfect sense. The trouble is, how is he going to make it work?

The scale of his attack on the two-car family has been slightly exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the Deputy Prime Minister thinks that households with two cars are a major problem. The facts do not support him. For one thing, only one in five households runs two cars, twice the level of 20 years ago but not showing much sign of growing rapidly now.

The other part of the two-car situation presents a much more

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



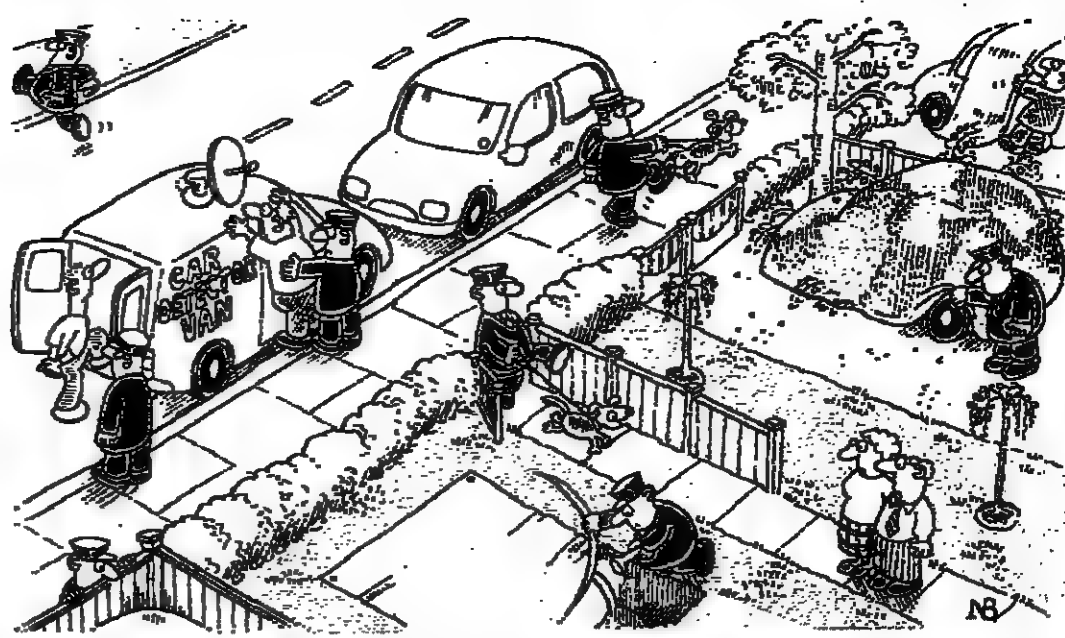
Peter Barnard

intractable problem, for it is clear that the extra car and the congested roads are not in the same place. It may well be that just as many people living in cities own two cars as do in the rural areas, but this does not mean the two cars are being used at the same time.

Among families in cities, the pattern is for children to be taken to school in a car by one partner while the other travels to work on public transport. In rural areas, this use of different transport types is often impossible because there is no, or little, public transport. So both family cars are on the road all the time. This doesn't normally matter, because there is little congestion in the country.

One of the difficulties of the transport debate is that it is conducted dishonestly. There is no intention to deceive, but there is dishonesty by omission. The reality is that the car "crisis" exists only in cities, and mostly in large cities at that: London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield and the like.

Politicians dare not state this simple fact, for fear that everyone living outside large cities will



decide that there is no need for them to change their behaviour. The reality is that the lack of rural public transport means they are unable to change their behaviour even if they wanted to.

So we are left with a circular debate in which people confuse car ownership (relatively low in Britain) with car use (relatively high).

towns with cities, essential journeys with non-essential ones. Mind you, the last point is easily illuminated: all my journeys are essential, all yours are not.

Mr Prescott said when he launched the new policy: "It's no good being tough with motorists and not offering them an alternative. Having two cars is a sym-

ptom of the failure of the public transport system rather than a sign of prosperity. I want motorists to be able to make a choice."

Unfortunately there is no word as to how this choice will be provided. Apparently Government ministers on trips abroad have been told to use public transport, to see how foreign cities manage. I

can save them the bother: they manage by having public transport owned by the public.

The Conservatives sold off our railways and buses, therefore the only way the Government can influence public transport provision is by further subsidy (no extra money available, says the Treasury) or by nationalisation (unthinkable under new Labour). There is a glimmer of hope in the Green Paper, which talks of a return to public regulation of bus services, but there is no clue as to exactly how this would work.

There is a factor just as important as those above but hardly ever mentioned. We drive children to school because we fear they may be attacked if allowed to walk. Women, especially, drive late at night in cities because they are afraid to use Tubes and buses. So, even if public transport was made available, would we send our children to school by bus? How will the Government make women feel as safe on the London Underground as they do in their cars?

These wider social factors impinge heavily on our habitual use of cars. The Government faces a huge social engineering task if these habits are to be changed significantly.

See the record cavalcade of our motoring yesterdays

A veteran Leon Bollee, more than 100 years old, the first Mini designed by Alec Issigonis, and electric, gas and solar-powered cars will all take part in this year's Coventry Run next Sunday.

When organisers announced the final plans last week, they revealed the widest-ever range of vehicles for the event which attracts thousands of spectators along its 65-mile route through Coventry, Kenilworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington Spa and Warwick. The record entry has been achieved with the support of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers which is sponsoring the event to mark its 150th anniversary.

The Institution has assembled a collection of 20 cars to celebrate motoring milestones over the years — and they were often cars which created new niches and turned the motoring world on its head. Like the Mini, the creation of Sir Alec, who invented a box on wheels just 10ft long, or the Range Rover, which elevated 4x4 motoring to a new concept of luxury four-wheel drive cars when it came on to the market in 1969.

A 1925 Austin Chummy, a 1935 Rolls-Royce Phantom and new cars powered by alternative fuels will also take part in the huge and glamorous line-up, proving how British invention have overcome our shortcomings for assembly line efficiency and ability to match Japanese-style productivity.

Tony Dawe on how the best of British will take a special Sunday run from Coventry

The entry of 480 cars and 18 motorcycles has still left many who wanted to take part disappointed. Twenty places have been reserved, however, for readers of *CAR 97* with interesting and historic motors. (More details of *The Times Twenty* and a map of the route will appear next week.)

Other special categories include a Midlands' Lord Mayors' parade in vehicles from Coventry's Museum of British Road Transport, a Jaguar Daimler collection and a parade of fascinating vehicles belonging to Institution members.

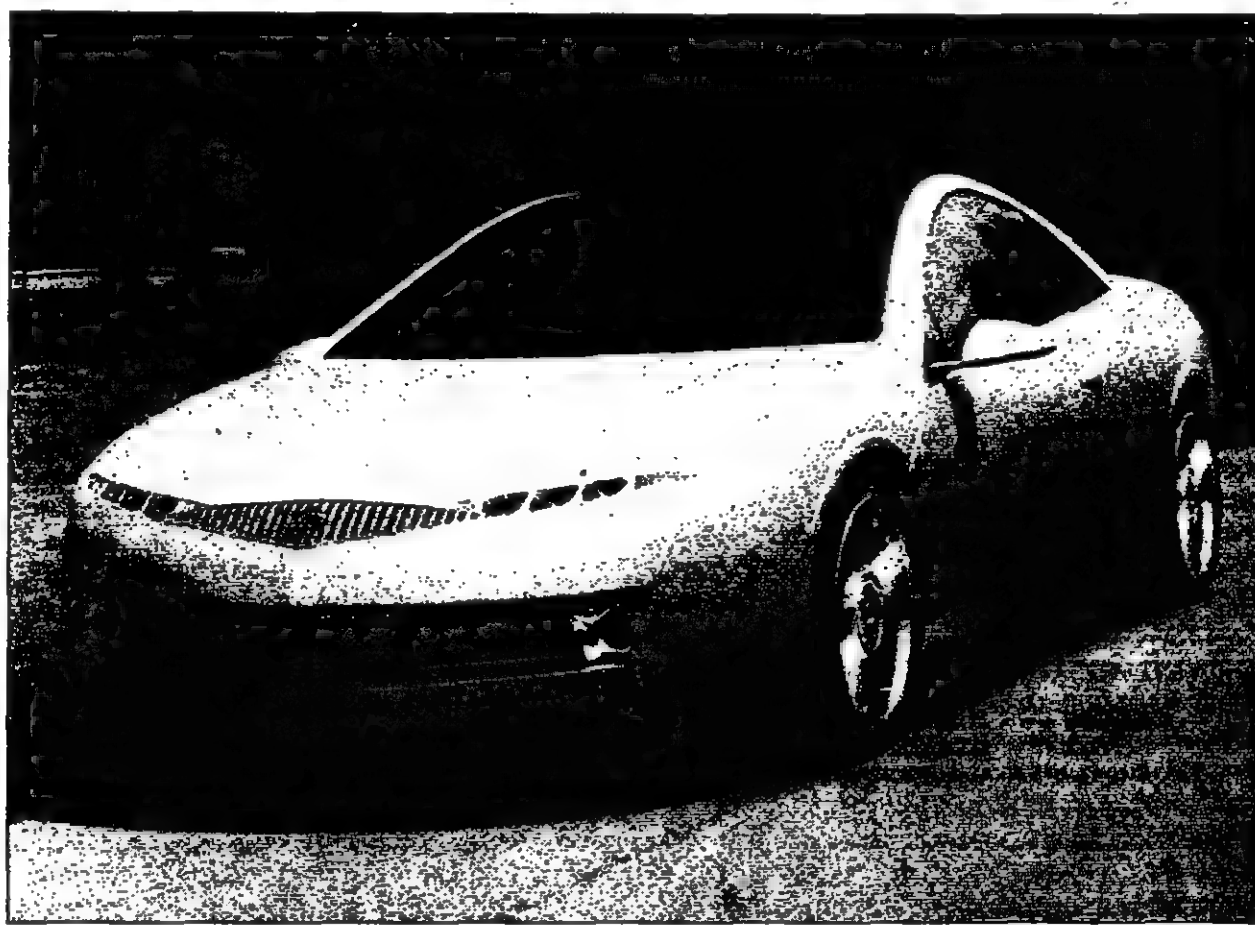
Martin Hone of International Festival Services, the organisers, says: "The attraction of the Coventry Run is the historical variety that presents itself to spectators, with the development of the motor car unfolding before their eyes in a colourful parade."

"Compare the trundling 1904 Siddeley with the 250mph McLaren F1 of 1997 and you would think they were a million years apart not just one hundred."



Part of a colourful parade of Britain's motoring history

Kevin Eason looks ahead to the Frankfurt Motor Show



The MC2: Ford finally to have found some courage in the spirit of its worldwide boss, British-born Alex Trotman

Look twice at this gorgeous monster: it is not a concept from Italy or one of the supercar makers — it is a Ford, and it could be on our streets within a year.

Ford is on a roll with adventurous designs for the Ka and the recently launched Puma coupé. Now the Mondeo is considered the next suitable case for a workover and should look something not far from this early effort when it arrives, badged the Cougar. The wraps come off the MC2, as this concept is codenamed by designers in Britain and Germany, at the Frankfurt Motor Show next month.

Everyone will be battling for attention at this show which promises to be one of the most exciting for years. The motor industry is awash with rumours that Rover will finally show us what the new Mini is going to look like, while the British company will be in the spotlight anyway with the official unveiling of its new mini four-wheel drive Land Rover, the Freelander — previewed extensively in *CAR 97* next week.

Freelander is the car the world has waited years for, a compact yet robust 4x4 with style, durability and performance. Rover executives are walking around with smiles as wide as cats who have stolen the corporate cream because all their early soundings tell them that Freelander is going to be a huge success.

There is also a sense of national pride seeping into the design and engineering studios and around the assembly lines because Freelander was designed in-house as Rover ended its 16-year partnership

Codename Cougar adds bite to Mondeo

with Honda and was signed off before BMW took full control; it is as British a British car as we have seen for years.

But hats off to Ford, which seems finally to have found some courage in the spirit of its feisty worldwide boss, British-born Alex Trotman. Can this really be the same company that disastrously relaunched the stodgy, staid Escort followed rapidly by that executive dog's dinner, the Scorpio?

If the Cougar looks anything like the MC2, it will turn heads in every high street in Europe.

Claude Lobo, Ford's director of small and medium car design, says his team was trying to bring fresh eyes to the coupé sector, once dominated by the Capri but which has since foundered with the blandness of the Probe. Rivals are not much to write home about either, with the Vauxhall Calibra now looking tired and dated and Peugeot's undoubtedly gorgeous 406 coupé hardly a snip at £26,000.

The market is wide open for

Ford with a car based on the Mondeo, which remains the outstanding model in the medium segment. There are cute V6 engines available, while the styling should be enough to attract attention — if Ford keeps faith with this design.

Most interesting is the roof which is a series of five louvred panels, which looks one-piece, but individually pivot to act as a sort of multi-layered sunroof.

Ford has not set a date for Cougar yet, except to say that it will be in Europe next year. We will have to wait longer to sample some of the technology under the bonnet of the equally radical-looking P2000. It houses the sort of propulsion Ford believes will be used universally in the next millennium as we switch to cars offering better energy efficiency and ultra-low pollution.

P2000 is powered by a tiny, four-cylinder 1.2-litre diesel engine made entirely from aluminium to save weight. The power pack will generate around 70 horse power, but

performance will be the equivalent of a 3-litre car of today, say Ford's engineers, because P2000 is so incredibly light.

Widespread use of carbon fibre, magnesium, Kevlar — the man-made composite — and aluminium all help, but P2000 also contains just 200 kilos of steel — a quarter of a car the same size made on current assembly lines.

With a total weight just 60 per cent of an equivalent model now, Ford estimates fuel economy will be three times better, holding out the promise of the 100 miles to the gallon car.

The company is also investigating the wide range of alternatives available, and is already well advanced with gas, methanol and ethanol and electric power. Fuel cells offer the ultimate goal: hydrogen broken down to generate electricity with no harmful emissions.

Trotman says: "This is a tremendously important programme, greatly advancing the state of the industry towards achieving breakthrough fuel efficiency and very low emissions transportation that also gives the customer what he or she wants."

In reality, truly pollution-free vehicles are decades away as engineers battle with the traditional bogey of bulky battery technology and the difficulty of finding systems for which there is an existing infrastructure and which is as convenient as the traditional and trusty internal combustion engine.

That leaves the reality of compact diesel fuel engines that can still transform the quality of the air we breathe and how we regard our vehicles.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

■ **LONDON**
A305 Hemmersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.

A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.

A1203 Bathnal Green Road. Roadworks between Valence Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

A237 Manor Road. Wellington, single alternate traffic at the junction with Melbourne Road.

A1209 Bathnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Valence Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

A312 Faggs Road. Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Road, north of Staines Road, between Gern and 5pm.

Richmond Park between Kingston Gate and Ham gate, closed for roadworks.

A2 Old Kent Road, New Cross, closed restrictions at various times.

A237 Manor Road. Wallingford. Traffic down to single lane with temporary lights at Melbourne Road junction.

■ **SOUTH-EAST**
A34 Berkshire. Contrailow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.

A4 Pockwoth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.

M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contrailow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 Wycombe East.

A29 Kent. Temporary lights on Maidstone Road, Ashford.

A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.

M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.

M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.

M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

■ **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Badminton Bridge, Badminton. Major roadworks with lane closures on Badminton roundabout.

M5 Bristol. Contrailow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.

A37 Somerset. Charlton Crossroads, Shepton Mallet, lane closures on all approaches at junction with A361.

A360 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at the Trafalgar roundabout.

A417 Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.

A303 Somerset. One lane

closed east of Chapel Cross between Aldermere in Wincanton and Hazelgrove roundabout.

■ **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contrailow and 50mph limit.

A134 Stroud, Norfolk. Roadworks at A122 junction.

A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts.

A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.

A50 Stoke on Trent: major roadworks in the Meir area at junction with A520.

M6 junction 6 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to M6 North closed at Salford Circus. Diversions in place.

M6 Staffordshire. Contrailow between junctions 14 and 15.

A1101 Mildenhall, Suffolk. closed at Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.

■ **NORTH**
A69 Cumbria. Temporary lights on Warwick Road, Carlisle with long delays, especially inbound from M6.

A19 between Thoby-on-Tyne and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.

A65 between Skipton and Settle at Conistone Cold, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights following bridge damage.

M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays on M1, M621 and A653.

A134 Tyne and Wear. Contrailow on Felling bypass.

M1 West Yorkshire. Junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Louthouse junction.

Contrailow and 50mph limit.

M62 West Yorkshire. Contrailow and 50mph limit, junctions 28 to 29.

■ **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tenedry.

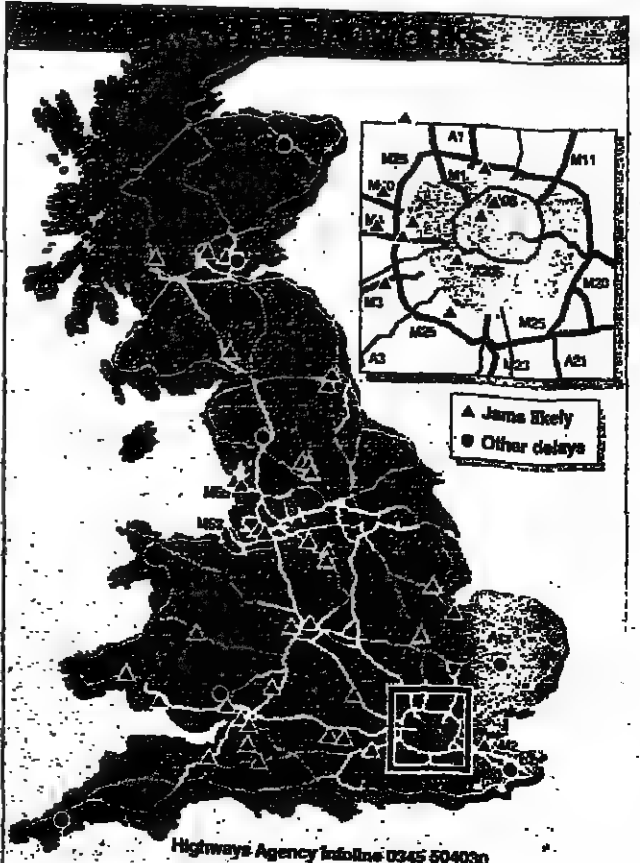
A448 Monmouthshire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport.

A472 Torfaen. Contrailow at Pontypool.

A483 Swansea. Major roadworks between Elba Crescent and the Vale of Neath road.

■ **SCOTLAND**
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.

A720 Edinburgh city bypass. Contrailow between Leith and Dregghom. One off-ramps at Dregghom closed.



P2000: lightweight propulsion for the next millennium

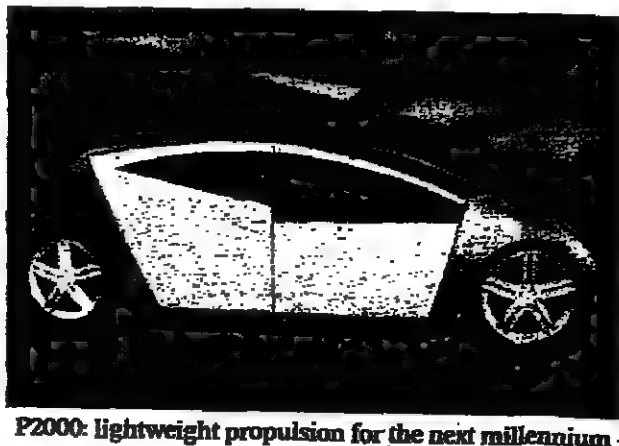
AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Eames

JACQUES VILLENEUVE IS THE ONLY F1 DRIVER WHO WEARS CONTACT LENSES

SAUDI KING IBN SAUD'S ROLLS-ROYCE HAD A SOLID SILVER WASHBURN AND A SEMI-CIRCULAR SEAT SO HE COULD SIT CROSS-LEGGED...

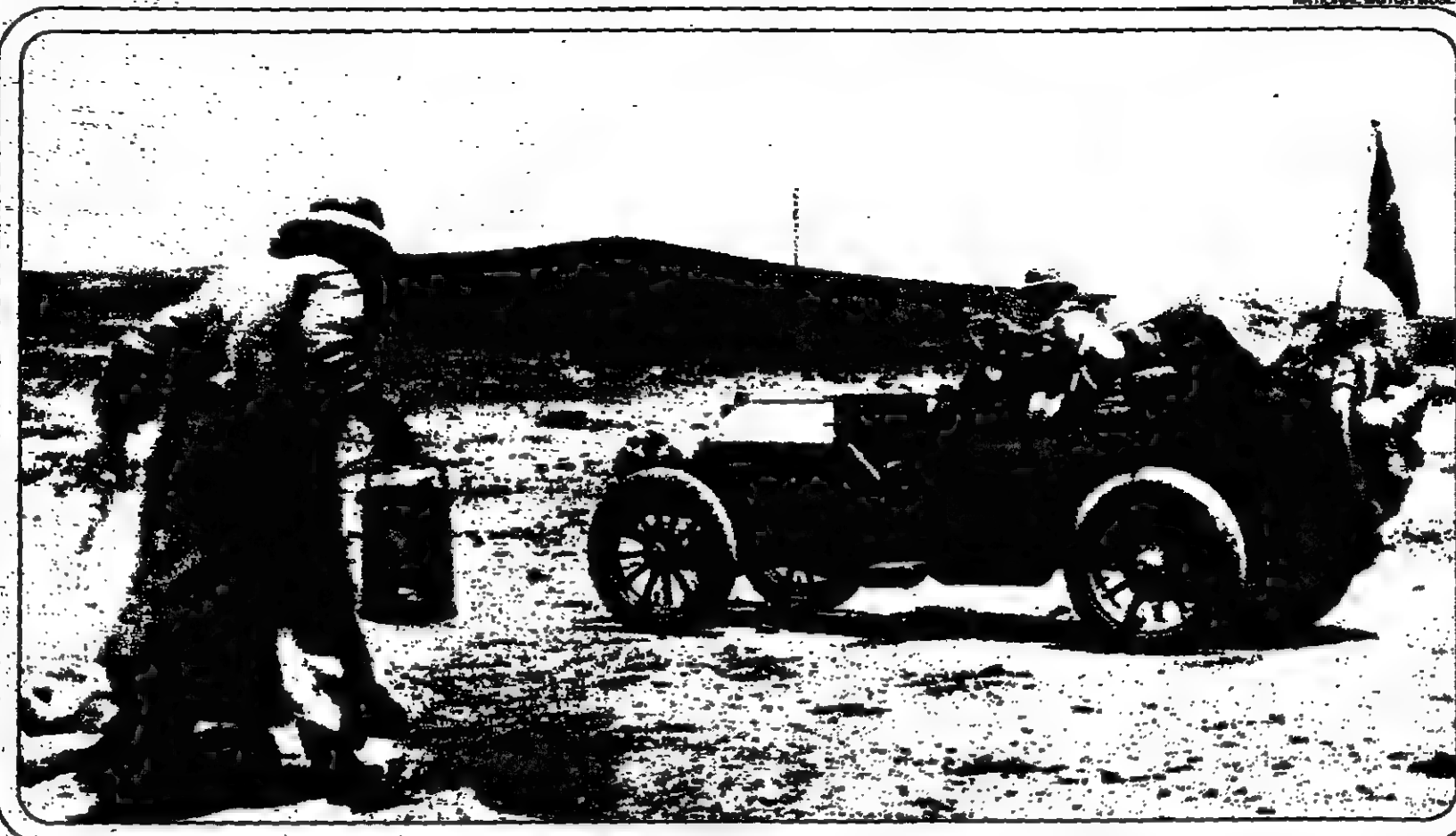
FERRARI'S CAVALLINO RAPINANTE EMBLEM CAME FROM FRANCESCO BARACCA, ITALY'S TOP WIND AIR ACE WHO REMAINED UNBURNED IN AERIAL COMBAT

STERLING MOSS WAS ALMOST CALLED HAMISH...



P2000: lightweight propulsion for the next millennium

Five go on a 12,000-mile drive




Prince Borghese collects water on the Gobi desert — where direction was by common sense after the telegraph poles ran out — before winning the race by 20 days.

Richard Clark and Kenneth Hughes are both British but will be driving a handsome 1948 Buick Special. Clark, the car's owner, is a banker who now lives in Singapore while Hughes is a banker who has worked in Hong Kong for the past 20 years. Between them, they should at least make a fist of communicating with the locals. Clark is fluent in German and French with smatterings of Arabic.

were not really built for the purpose. Nobody has attempted anything like this for cars of this type and age since that first race in 1907 when the gauntlet was thrown down to cross two continents. Whoever gets home first will have done a magnificent job."

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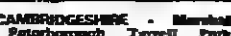
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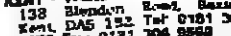
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NDY AUG 30 1997

CAR 97

Great drive on the Golf range

Ignore the hype,
Volkswagen's
new generation
shows it class on
the road, says
Helen Mound

So old, it is one of the most venerable names in motoring, as familiar as traffic lights and the lollipop lady on our streets. But the Volkswagen Golf shows no sign of fading away. Instead, after 23 years in production, the fourth generation of this remarkable car is better than ever.

Bigger, curvier and more powerful than those tiny boxes on wheels which were launched in 1974, the Golf is pitched into one of the most competitive sectors of the market where upmarket Escorts, Jolies with Audi's A3 across a spectrum of models that have been revamped or relaunched.

It is also the toughest section of the market in which to be distinctive — a talent which used to be the Golf's sole territory. You could spot an original Mk1 model at 10 miles, so square were its lines, though it was surprisingly nearer in size to the current Polo than the big sister MkIV, due in British showrooms from December.

The good news is that, after two generations of bland, the Golf looks and feels better than ever. If middle-market buyers were waiting for something to come along and give them a nudge in their wallets, here it is at last.

MkIV has great handling, performance and styling. The first delivery will include a range with eight engines and five trim levels — but Volkswagen says that is only three-quarters of the potential line-up. A cabriolet, four-wheel-drive hatch, saloon and estate versions have yet to be revealed.

It is no secret that the Golf effectively shares the same... floorpan... as the Audi A3, one of the hits of the year, and the soon-to-arrive Skoda Octavia. All parts of the Volkswagen group's strategy to cut costs by sharing expensive-to-develop floorpans around its sister companies: VW, Seat, Skoda and Audi.

That could conceivably lead to uniformity throughout the range, so it is not surprising how much like a sophisticated, refined and more costly Audi this people's wagon feels.

VW offers a wider choice of engines than the Audi, with three- and five-door prices likely to start at £12,000, £2,000 less than the entry-level A3. And VW claims there are differences — the Golf has the sporting appeal while the A3 is more comfortable. They are not significant differences though.

The soft plastic finish on the dashboard, quality fabrics and exceptionally high standard of equipment puts the new Golf in a class above its predecessor and conspicuously close to the A3, supposed to be in a slightly higher segment of this compact market.

I drove the cars with the new 20-valve engines, already familiar in the A3: the normally aspirated 1.8-litre in 125 brake horse power guide and the turbocharged 150bhp 1.8.

On paper the extra 25bhp doesn't appear substantial, but when it's underneath your right foot and, given a light-pressure turbocharger, it makes a marked difference.



VW Golf MkIV: after two generations of bland, it looks and feels better than ever, and if middle-market buyers were waiting for something to come along and give them a nudge in their wallets, here it is

GOLF Mk IV

Engines: 1.4 16v, 75bhp; 1.6 16v, 100bhp; 1.8 20v, 125bhp; 1.8 20v, 150bhp; 2.3 20v V5, 150bhp; 1.9 diesel, 68bhp; 1.9 turbo-diesel, 90bhp; 1.9 turbo-diesel, 110bhp.

Performance: 1.4 — 0-62mph, 13.5 secs; top speed 106mph; 33mpg (in town), 1.6 — 10.9 secs; 117mph; 26.9mpg; 1.8 (125bhp) — 9.9 secs; 125mph; 24.1mpg; 1.8T — 8.5 secs; 134mph; 26.1mpg; 2.3 V5 — 8.8 secs; 134mph; 20.9mpg; 1.9 (68bhp) — 17.2 secs; 100mph; 40.9mpg; 1.9 (90bhp) — 12.6 secs; 112mph; 41.4mpg; 1.9 (110bhp) — 10.6 secs; 120mph; 43.4mpg.

Prices: 1.4E 16v three-door, £12,000; 2.3 V5 three-door, £19,500.

The 125bhp version feels breathless and lethargic compared to the turbocharged car which has keen Jack Russell-like tendencies. For equally

former. Meanwhile, what is there for the money in the latest incarnation of Europe's favourite car? Answer: a lot. VW has added features to the Golf that medium-sized

None of its 23 years and sheer familiarity shows any longer

Safety includes driver and passenger airbags, anti-lock brakes, and a new feature which will attract a lot of attention among the thirty-somethings: rear bench anchors which allow a child seat to be fixed rigidly. The Golf is the first car to comply with new European Community Isofix standards which help parents decide how to fit baby

seats that really will keep baby safe.

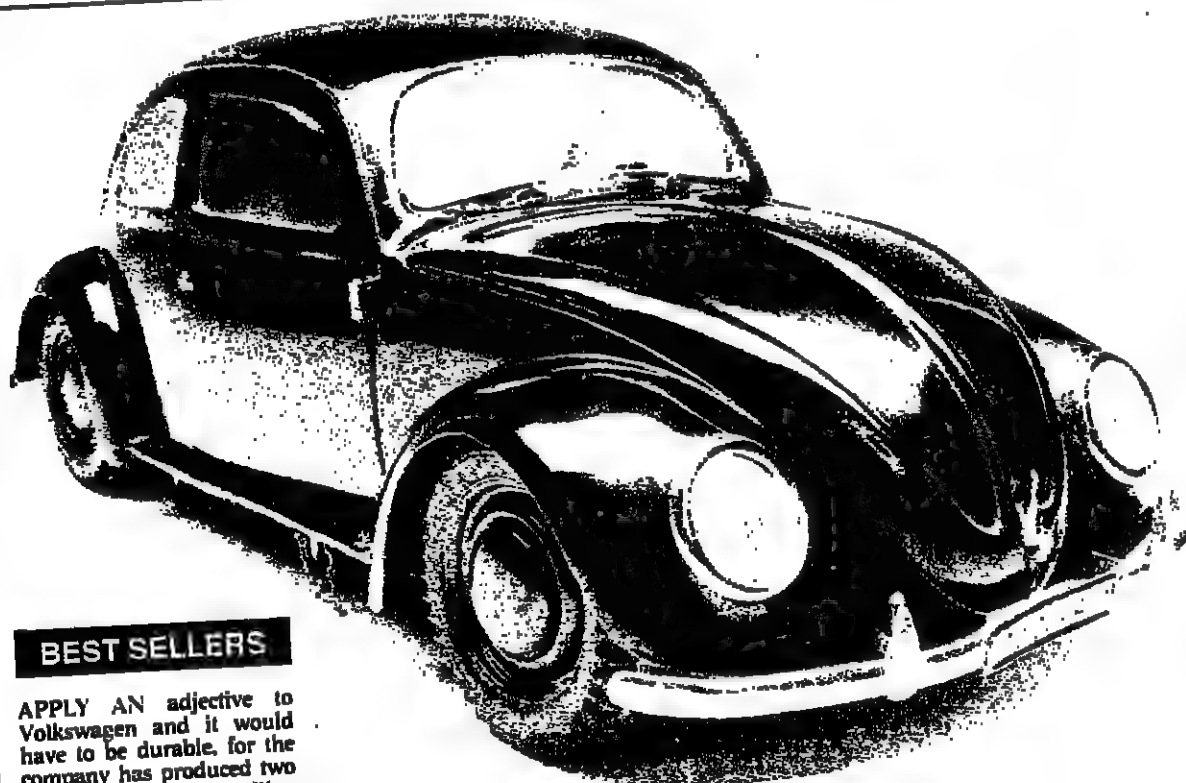
That is the sort of attention Volkswagen wants because a lot rides on this new-for-old motor. If you had seen the press launch, you would have discovered just how hard the Germans were trying to sell this car to journalists from all over Europe.

Volkswagen launched the car under a Big Top — yes, a circus with palm-reading, body-painting, basketball competitions and Tai chi lessons. More than 300 of us sat bemused as parachutists landed among us and a cabaret danced around the dining table.

Why? Frankly, I have no idea how a night in the Big Top was going to convince me that the Golf was a good car better than an hour at the wheel, but all those nice chaps in suits in marketing obviously thought it was one way to blow the launch budget.

In between, they assailed us with descriptions of the car which ranged from "brilliant, innovative and wonderful" — even, somewhat astonishingly, "mythical" — all the way to "perfect". Come on: it's good, but nothing is that good.

Take it from me and ignore the inevitable hype — you just need to take a look at the new Golf. None of its 23 years on the market, none of its sheer familiarity shows any longer. Golf MkIV is a cracking motor and will carry on the production legend which has already made the car one of the best-selling of all time.



BEST SELLERS

APPLY AN adjective to Volkswagen and it would have to be durable, for the company has produced two of the all-time best-selling models. When Adolf Hitler decided he wanted a business to put Germany on wheels, he told Ferdinand Porsche to build him a Volks Wagen — people's car.

Clearly, Hitler was thinking he would be putting the rest of the world on wheels as well at some point, though not entirely due to an export push.

Porsche invented the car which became the familiar air-cooled, rear-engined Beetle, a model of simplicity and

■ The world's top-selling cars (in millions, latest available figures): Volkswagen Beetle (above) — 21; Toyota Corolla — 20; VW Golf — 17; Model T Ford — 15.5; Ford F-Series Truck — 14.9; Lada Riva — 13.5; Ford Escort/Orion — 12; Nissan Sunny — 10.2; Mazda 323 — 9.5; Renault 4 — 8.1

reliability, and postwar production soared. Output has now passed 21 million and keeps climbing, with production in South America still feeding the legend of the world's best-selling car.

To produce one best-seller

since 1984 and more than 17 million have rolled off the vast production lines at Wolfsburg in Germany — virtually a one-company town dedicated to Volkswagen. Even now, a new Golf leaves the factory every 26 seconds, steaming up to the record figure established by its predecessor — if the MkIV captures the public imagination so that millions more join the Golf club.

IN BRIEF

Fast-track results

■ SHREDDED nerves could be a thing of the past for L-test students engaged in the battle of wits with the theory examination. Pupils prepared to pay £25 instead of £15 can have their papers marked immediately, with results available in as little as an hour. The Driving Standards Agency says that the while-you-wait service will be available at 22 test centres — and if you both it then you have to wait a minimum of three days before a resit. Oh, and you can keep your theory paper as a memento of the day. Isn't that lovely?

Corolla is on a roll

■ YET MORE men in suits: the prudish Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has refused to issue a number of R-plates which might cause offence to we shrinking violets of the roads, including R4 NDY (you got it: Randy) even though bundles of drivers have offered £10,000 and more for the registration this month. No explanation given, but surely the best play is to sell the plate for the highest price, then let the rest of the world know exactly what sort of dipstick is behind the wheel of a car adorned with such an unappealing moniker.

Definitely notta proppa way to name a mota

Want to admit that you own a car called a Nippa? No thank you, says Kevin Eason

The marketing man who has to sell this one has his work cut out: the latest car to enter Britain is... wait for it... called the Perodua Nippa.

I'd thank you for not giggling at the back there. This is a serious report and those of you not grown up enough to accept that can turn to page seven right now.

The Perodua Nippa, is... the Nippa is... all right, you win. It is a ridiculous name and I pity the first buyer who has to tell his chums he is the proud owner of a car which definitely has the most bizarre

handle in the British motoring world.

Perodua is a Malaysian company founded five years ago, using technological help from Daihatsu, and has the same ambitions as other manufacturers from the Pacific Rim region. Kia, Proton, Hyundai and Daewoo among them. The company has 25 British dealers from Torquay to Edinburgh.

It seems that Perodua had a choice when deciding what to call its little car in Britain. Obviously somebody went to work on a bus called the Hoppa or Shoppa or any of those



Perodua Nippa: obviously somebody went to work on a bus with the cutesy name of Hoppa or Shoppa

dreadful, cutesy names they get these days, and hit on Nippa.

To business though, and the Nippa is a reworking of Daihatsu's Mitra, so no surprises under the bonnet or in the styling. This is the car which was built for A to B functionality, the supermarket cola instead of the real thing.

Under the bonnet is a three-cylinder, 550cc power plant whose 42 brake horse power is enough to propel a vehicle weighing just 675 kilos to a top speed of 84mph. Not startling, but this is the car to nip — or, indeed, nippa — to the shops in or pick the kids up from school. Price will be a consideration for

anybody considering amusing the neighbours: at £5,886 and £6,521, only the Kia Pride (£5,919), Fiat Cinquecento (£6,500) and Lada Samara (£4,945, but you can't buy them any more) get near.

But Nippa? Nippa! You would have to pay me to own a car with that name.

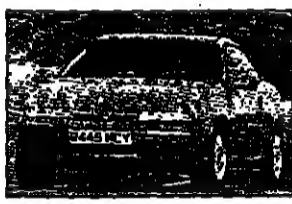
CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

SPARE PARTS



Saab leads by a head

PROTECTION from whiplash is promised by a head restraint fitted to Saab's 9-5 model, just coming to British showrooms. The system was developed by Saab with Delphi Systems - both part of the General Motors empire. Called Pro-tech, the system is mechanical and triggered by a pressure plate in the seat back. On impact, pressure from the driver presses on to the plate, which pushes the head rest up and forward before the head snaps backwards, providing what engineers call "a catcher's mitt". American data shows rear impacts cause 25 per cent of injuries annually, which should be reduced among drivers with Saabs fitted with Pro-tech.



SO FAREWELL, the Calibra (above), the car that redefined the Essex car and moved it to Luton, home of Vauxhall. The company is running out the coupe with a special edition SE9 version in flame red with leather seats, spoiler and alloy wheels. All for £22,495 if you want to be among the last of more than 238,000 Calibra buyers persuaded by its slightly naff styling.

Voyager finally reaches Britain

Car names can be descriptive, pretentious, confusing, irrelevant or just plain daft. Chrysler got it exactly right when it called its big multi-purpose vehicle Voyager. True, it doesn't float, so sea voyages are not recommended, but it is an evocative name that smacks of state-of-the-art, long-distance travel to far away places which may themselves have strange sounding names. It even has a compass, writes Stuart Birch.

Chrysler is not modest about the Voyager. It describes it as the world's best-selling people carrier and "the vehicle that created the MPV boom", but it has taken 14 years to reach Britain. Worth waiting for? By and large - and large is the word for this piece of wheeled real estate - the answer is yes.

I have been living with a 3.3-litre LE version (there is also the Grand Voyager, which is even bigger), which is arguably good value at £23,695 plus £900 for leather seats. It also came with £300 worth of very dark "sunscreen glass" for the rear windows and a tailgate window, which from a distance makes it look like a van, transport for a rock star.

ROAD TEST

or as if you have something to hide; possibly all three. The big V6 engine is all torque, but with 150 brake horsepower nothing special in the way of power. On paper the performance looks no more than adequate, but in action the Voyager feels lively enough. It is a bit of a gas guzzler in town at just over 16mpg, but the combined figure of 23mpg looks better. Four-speed automatic transmission is standard and the

VOYAGER 3.3LE

Engine: 3.3-litre V6 for 150bhp at 4,700rpm, four-speed automatic transmission.
Performance: 0-62mph, 11.8 secs; top speed 109mph. Economy: average 23mpg.
Equipment: Air-conditioning, cruise control, 10 speaker-stereo.
Price: £23,695 on the road.

selector lever is steering column-mounted. On main roads and motorways, this big MPV's ride is excellent and it bowls along easily with occupants enjoying a high-level, panoramic view of the world. However, on roads with poor surfaces such as country lanes, ride quality is unimpressive and the body does not have the rigid feel of current European MPVs such as the Ford Galaxy/VW Sharan or Renault Espace. Handling and roadholding are adequate while the Voyager is easy to manoeuvre. But it is in terms of space and equipment where the Voyager really scores. Making a voyage in the Voyager is a spacious experience for seven people, although luggage room is then somewhat limited. The rear bench seat has "easy-out rollers" - nothing to do with hairdressing, everything to do with pushing the seats into storage when removed. There are plenty of seat configurations to choose from. The long wheelbase Grand Voyager provides useful extra luggage space. There is a big sliding door on each side, protected by child locks, particularly im-



Voyager: considerable presence, but the ride can be bumpy

portant when a youngster might step from the vehicle without the warning to oncoming traffic of a conventionally opening door. Standard equipment on all Voyagers includes air-conditioning, anti-lock brakes, airbags, electric front and rear quarter windows, while the LE version has seven seats with powered adjustment for the

FORECOURT

the car comes with an authentic dealer service history - will always find a buyer. Anxiety over repair and insurance costs are not deterring those who seek ultimate luxury on a budget. A 1983 Y-reg Silver Spirit can be had for under £16,000, while a 1986 D-reg Spirit with anti-lock brakes sells for around £20,000. The Spirit luxuriates in the 6.4-litre engine which is almost impossible to damage, much less destroy, given that most Royces (they are never called "Rollers" by those who care) use more than a fraction of the power they offer.

A ROLLS-Royce can make a bargain buy for the motorist able to afford the running costs. High mileage examples of the Silver Spirit - provided

USED CAR BRIEF



ALFA ROMEO 145
Wedge-shaped Alfa Romeo 145 was launched as a three-door hatchback three years ago. The diesel-free, front-wheel drive range includes 120bhp 1.6-litre, 1.7-litre 16-valve (120bhp) and 2-litre, 16-valve worth 150bhp. A year after the 145 arrived, its bigger brother, the five-door 146 was launched. For drivers seeking Escort-sized motoring, the 145/146 offers a stylish alternative.

- GOOD NEWS**
Alfa Romeo launched the 145 with three-year/50,000 mile warranties, eight-year anti-rust protection and three years for the paintwork. Even base cars get power steering, electric front windows and remote central locking.
- LOOK FOR**
Alfa Romeo's authorised service history. If not, the various mechanical, rust and paint warranties could well be deemed to be no longer valid. Check for paint bubbles, colour fading, and that bodywork panels around the car are true.
- SAFETY**
Look for cars fitted from the L specification upwards with anti-lock brakes. The 145 benefits from a driver's-side airbag, but check the car's history and that a problem with the airbag, which led to a dealer recall, has been fixed.
- INSURANCE**
Cover from AA Insurance, 0800 444777, on 8 1994. 145 1.7 16v three-door costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, in Winchester with full no-claims £216 a year full comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no-claims in south London, pays £1,405, a similar female £1,536.
- PRICES**
Expect to pay £7,750 for a 1994 M-reg 145 1.6 five-door, £8,500 for a 1994 M-reg 145 1.7 16v three-door, £9,500 for a 1995 M-reg 145 1.6 five-door, £10,500 for a 1995 M-reg 145 1.6 five-door, £11,000 for a 1995 M-reg 145 1.6 five-door, £11,750 for a 1996 M-reg 146 1.7 16v five-door.
- OVERALL**
The three-door 145 looks good and, for many, driving a car with the Alfa badge on the bonnet and steering wheel is reward enough. The 145 five-door is a more practical buy, roomier and more useful for motorists looking for an Escort alternative with some Mediterranean flair. The 1.7-litre engine makes most sense though the 2-litre gives exceptional performance.

Auctions in high gear

- THIS is the start of the busy season for motoring auctions, ranging from the practical to the exotic and from London to Sacramento.
- Aug 31 - Robert Stevens, Taitton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire. 01565-723863.
- Sept 8 - Brooks, Paris. 0171-585 3000.
- Sept 9 - Sotheby's, Musée de l'Automobile, Geneva. 0171-493 8080.
- Sept 13 - Christie's, National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire. 0171-839 9060.
- Kruse, Towse Museum, Sacramento, USA. 00-1800 988-4444.
- Sept 15 - AMA, Penbrooke Road, Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks. 01296-339150.
- Sept 16 - Phillips, Powderham Castle, Kenton, near Exeter. 01392-439025.
- Sept 21 - R.T.S., Royal Norfolk Showground, Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich. 01603-505718.
- Sept 24 - H&H, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire. 0161-747-0561.
- Sept 25 - Brooks, Olympia, London. 0171-228-8000.

EXECUTIVE CARS

Barclays Automobile Sales Rental Leasing

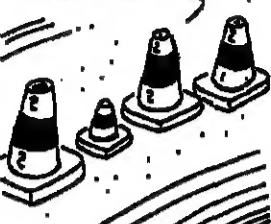
Porsche Carrera 4 T, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 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You, too, can become a Spiderman

It looks a seriously mean machine, but the Renault racer also comes in a roadgoing version, says Stuart Birch

Nick Hart, 27-year-old race driver and Howard Nicholson, 57-year-old regional sales engineer, have one thing in common: a liking for spiders. Or, to be more exact, the Renault Sport Spider.

Nick races the rapid, raucous, road-clinging machine in the Renault Sport Spider Cup championship: Howard drove one for a day and decided his clients would be shocked if he turned up in it for meetings instead of his 1.6-litre Toyota Corolla.

The remarkable thing about the £26,000 lightweight Spider, a total sports car with few pretensions to comfort — no roof, windows, carpets, heater, radio, power assistance for the non-ABS brakes or power steering and a luggage locker filled with tools and a spare tyre — is its ability to whisk around a race track at convincing speeds but present no problems to a driver who spends most of his travelling time in a saloon on motorways. It may look it, but this is not really a mean machine.

Even so, invited by CAR 97 to sample the aluminium and composites, mid-engined Spider, Howard — a specialist in commercial vehicle body design with CVR of Rochdale — approached it with a hint of trepidation. He had driven nothing like it before. First, the doors open vertically, so there is the chance of a cuff on the chin. Once on board, the driving position can be improved via adjustable pedals.

Settled in a huggy bucket seat, the Spider's 150bhp Megane Coupé 16v engine ticking over, Howard was ready for action, accelerating gently, becoming used to the close-ratio gearbox, direct steering and brakes that need a hefty shove. It wasn't quite like setting off for the M25 in the Corolla. But within 10 minutes he was tackling corners with a gusto that his Toyota — in which he covers



The roadgoing Spider: "Lower the ride height, take off the windscreen and swap the tyres for slicks and the two cars would be very close"

45,000 miles a year — would not appreciate at all. After 15 minutes, the exhaust found its full voice as he used the car's power.

With the early morning sun gleaming on the Spider's brilliant yellow paintwork, the temperature climbing and the roads traffic-free, Howard Nicholson was having fun: "I feel part of the car. It is noisy, basic, hardly a rep's car — but I want one!"

Nick Hart's is even more basic: a single-seater, it has suspension with as much give as Mike Tyson's flexed muscles. It weighs about 40kg less than the road car, has an extra 35bhp, a six-speed non-synchronous gearbox, Renault-Alpine A610



The racing Spider, left, and its roadgoing cousin open for inspection

supercar brake calipers and fat Michelin slicks. Nick has consistently been in the top three in the Spider Cup, driving for Apex Autosport. "My car is not really that much different from a roadgoing Spider. Both share immense stability, suspension is via double wishbones and they have rear wheel drive to satisfy the purist. Even in the wet, grip is immense. On the track you can get these cars oversteering to an angle of almost 90 degrees — and they virtually always come back on line thanks to the tyre capacity."

So I took the roadgoing Spider to Brands and asked him to prove the point. It was time for crash helmets and serious motoring. Nick even

RENAULT SPIDER

Engine: Two-litre, four-cylinder with 150bhp.
Performance: 0-60mph in seven seconds; top speed 134mph.
Equipment: Heated windscreen, adjustable foot pedals, leather-trimmed steering wheel, aluminium briefcase for vehicle documentation, engine immobiliser, roll bar, Recaro sports seats.
Extras: Umbrella-style hard-top hood.
Price: £26,595 on the road.

removed the driving seat cushion: "I like to sit as low as possible."

A quick warm-up lap, then on lap two, past the pits at 105mph, brake for Paddock Hill Bend, plunge down it like a roller-coaster with a hint of oversteer, sweep up towards Druids at 85mph, change down to third and then second gear, braking hard to 45mph, a squealing 180 degree turn, down the hill towards Graham Hill Bend, the engine rev limiter cutting in briefly, up to third then fourth gear reaching 55mph before Surtees bend, into third, wash through Clearways and accelerate to 105mph once more past the pits to do it all over again.

All this in a car that I'd used as my regular transport for a week, including a trip to the supermarket where it gathered an immediate crowd. Street cred? This car has street cred, track cred and supermarket cred.

On a good day, Nick's race Spider laps Brands in about 48 seconds. "I reckon the roadgoing Spider would take another four seconds. But lower the ride height, take off the windscreen and swap the tyres for slicks and the two cars would be very close."

Nick makes the point that such driving is for tracks only: "Drive like that on the road and you'd be locked up — and quite right. But it does indicate the level of dynamic safety designed into the car. Driven responsibly on the road, it is very safe indeed; you are unlikely to get into difficulties — but if you do it is very easy to recover."

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'Do you like the Silver Spur? My other car's a Porsche'

Vaughan Freeman enjoys a politically incorrect, but very upmarket, status

Coffee or tea? Toast or cornflakes? Porsche Boxster or the Rolls-Royce Silver Spur? Oh, the heartache and agony of those first decisions of the day...

John Prescott certainly would not have approved of the two cars parked all too temporarily outside the Freeman household, between the clutter of our worn Volvo estate and the neighbours' Maestros. C-reg Saabs and company Mondeo.

By some freak of bad diary management, the Spur and Boxster arrived on the same day, posing the sort of dilemma most motorists would swap their Gran for a face: what do I drive today?

All modern cars get you from A to B and are fairly safe and comfortable. Even so, the choice of modern cars is wider than ever, and the newest Rolls-Royce and the first genuinely new Porsche for 18 years represent opposite poles of that motoring variety.

The Boxster is a little 2.5-litre two-seater, two-door sports convertible with blindfold parking and restricted luggage room. But it is all about fun, attitude and driving down country lanes with the top down and a grin on your face. Judged in terms of per-pence-per-mile, it is an absolute bargain at £34,000.

The Silver Spur is a 6.7-litre, 18-hp behemoth: a wafting, cosseting automotive world apart, which vacuum packs its occupants in a

world of leather, wood and carpeting to create a hermetically sealed £145,000 worth of marvellous attention to detail and opulence.

Which to drive? The decision was made initially by the need to transport the family of four from Brighton to Swansea. Despite six-year-old Benjamin's plea that he copilot the Boxster with dad while mum brought sister Emily in the Rolls-Royce, the Crewmobile was the obvious choice.

Five luxurious hours later we were in South Wales. No longer is the clock the loudest thing in a Rolls-Royce. Today air-conditioning makes the most noise, except when drowned out by back-seat passengers giggling at their favourite video on the in-car player.

There was a time in the 1980s when envy, accompanied by cowardly scratches on the paintwork, seemed the main emotion inspired by a Rolls-Royce. Perhaps times have changed, for whenever we went the Silver Spur drew truly appreciative glances. In Swansea, parked in a terraced street where it cost as much as three or four of the houses, neighbours admired its quality and its workmanship, without sneering or jealousy.

The trip home was equally relaxing, another 250 miles in blazing heat, purring along in a car that is so deceptively quick despite its size, that a blip on the throttle sent it surging down the motorway.



Decisions, decisions: Freeman ponders the agonising choice between £145,000 of supreme Rolls-Royce luxury and £34,000 of fun driving in a convertible Porsche

in contrast to town driving, which is serene progress.

All so different from the manners of the Boxster. From our front door to the pillarbox is about 800 yards, but when there is a Boxster outside and a sun in the sky you have to drive with the roof down to post a letter. Most mornings nothing could be done until each family member had had their 15-minute outing in the passenger seat, taking a quick trip over the Sussex Downs.

The makers of Prozac would be put out of business overnight if all those taking it were instead offered daily doses of Boxster. Its potential performance is way over the legal top, but no matter. Sprinting on a

SILVER SPUR

Engine: Turbo-charged 6.7-litre V8, computer-controlled automatic transmission

Performance: 0-60mph in 7.9 seconds; top speed 140mph. Fuel consumption - 23mpg in town.

Equipment: Video player with tvn screens, fridge, Wilton carpet, picnic tables, cocktail cabinet.

Price: £145,000.

BOXSTER

Engine: Mid-mounted 2.5-litre, flat six-cylinder producing 204hp.

Performance: 0-62mph in 6.9 seconds; top speed 149mph. Fuel consumption - 23mpg in town.

Equipment: Electric fold-away roof (optional aluminium hard top), electric windows and heated mirrors, dual airbags.

Price: £34,000.

clear road to the speed limit or enjoying the car's fluid handling ensures driving the Boxster is sheer joy. For the ultimate indulgence on hot days, the roof can stay down while the air conditioning works full-blast to keep occupants cool.

The ingenious, all-electric touch-button mechanism means the roof can be lowered and raised in only 12 seconds, without any risk to fingernails, and flash showers need not threaten that open-top delight. With the roof up there is plenty of headroom for the tallest driver, although visibility to the rear is severely restricted.

Now that two-car families are politically incorrect, especially

when one car returns on overall fuel economy of under 18 miles to the gallon and both are capable of twice the legal speed limit, the downside of opting for a Spur and a Boxster is that any such two-car family will probably have to hide in an isolated garage to avoid those who know what is best for us.

The upside for those with the money, self-confidence and good sense to plump for these two cars is that they probably represent between them all that is best in motoring comfort, fun and technology. Now the dream is over, the cars are gone, and it's back to the Volvo. At least that means one fewer choice every morning.

AUCTION of PERSONALISED REGISTRATIONS

at The Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 1st & 2nd September 1997

91A	111	BBN	90CW	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC	111	EC
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